

POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

THIS WEEK'S SOFTWARE
SEE PAGE 78

35p 24-30 November 1983 Vol 2 No 47

This Week

Sord M5

The Japanese contender in the ferocious under-£200 computer market — Andy Pennell sees how it measures up. See page 46.

Spectrum interrupts

Alan Went shows how simple it is to use Z80 interrupts to improve your own programs. See page 20.

Casio keyboards

These electronic keyboards are flooding the shops — Graham Taylor wonders whether they are computers in disguise. See page 13.

New releases

All the latest software programs including *Four Gates to Freedom* by Phoenix and *Pub Crawl* from B & H Software. See page 76.

★ STAR
Amoeba's Playtime
on 48K Spectrum.
See page 10.
GAME ★

News Desk

Acorn contract shoot-out

SINCLAIR Research has announced its intention to challenge Acorn for the BBC computer contract when it comes up for renewal next summer.

"We would be most interested in competing for that contract if it is feasible for us to do so," said a Sinclair spokesman.

As a first step, Sinclair has written to the BBC to discover if the contract is to be offered on open tender. "We want to state our interest openly, well in advance and find out how the BBC wants to handle it."

"So far they have acknowledged our letter and confirmed that they are looking into it," added the Sinclair spokesman.

Acorn remains unruffled by the Sinclair action. "Acorn is not at all worried — there is no reason why it should be — Sinclair tendered for the original contract and lost," explained an Acorn spokesman.

"We would be surprised if

Continued on page 5

Ted revealed at Las Vegas

COMMODORE is expected to show a prototype of its new computer, the Commodore 444, for the first time at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January.

The machine will be the first to use Commodore's new TED chip. The TED is a multi-purpose device, designed to reduce the number of components on the circuit board and thereby reduce manufacturing costs. The TED combines the functions of system controller, video controller, display processor

and voice generator all in one chip. The Commodore 444 will also be the first Commodore machine to use a new updated 6500-family central processor with optimised access to external memory.

The Commodore 444 will be a more advanced machine than the existing Commodore 64 computer with sophisticated cursor control and built-in word processing.

Commodore is also considering a new low-cost machine. Commodore (UK)

Continued on page 5



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VIC 20

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COMMODORE 64

GAMES AND UTILITIES

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Accuracy

Popular Computing Weekly cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, although we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

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Editorial

Acorn's contract to produce the BBC micro comes up for renewal next year.

Although there is little likelihood of the BBC taking the contract away from Acorn — despite initial production problems, the BBC micro has lived up to most expectations — other micro manufacturers, notably Sinclair, Dragon, Oric and Computers, are itching to tender for the contract. Sinclair, in particular, is eager to prove that the BBC made the wrong decision in selecting Acorn for the original contract.

Whatever the outcome of the BBC contract, there is also the intriguing possibility of a rival micro being launched by the independent television companies. The ITV networks are all too well aware of the lucrative spin-offs which the BBC has derived from its association with micros. It would be a natural move, though there is a lot of leeway to be made up, for the ITV companies to launch their own computer.

The ITV micro is not a new idea — Commodore has already had informal talks with at least one commercial station on the feasibility of producing just such a machine. However, any ITV micro would face problems unknown to its BBC sibling.

For an ITV micro to have any hope of success, it would need to be embraced by all the independent tv companies, not just a proportion of them. This, in turn, would necessitate all the companies agreeing to common specifications for the micro.

Next Thursday

Can you find the hidden treasure in Diver — next week's *Star Game* for the Spectrum by John Durst.

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- ☐ Spectrum Light Pen £17.25

Name

Address

Rival Oric disc drive from ITL

ITL, in Chatham, hopes to do for Oric what Premier Microsystems did for Dragon.

This week the company will launch a rival disc drive system to Oric's own, before the official Oric product has even appeared.

Like the Oric Products disc unit, the ITL system — called the Byte Drive 500 — is based on the Hitachi 3 inch drive. It is a 40-track single unit giving a formatted memory capacity of about 440K. A double-sided 80-track version is also on the way.

The Byte Drive 500 comes with its own power supply, capable of handling up to two disc units. The interface to connect the system to the Oric 1 computer takes the form of a custom chip that has been built into the connecting cable linking the disc drive and computer.

ITL's own disc operating

system is supplied on disc and works as an extension to the existing Oric Basic. Connecting the drive simply adds a number of new commands to the Basic vocabulary.



Peter Halford

The system has been designed for ITL by Tyrell Computer Systems. The design work of the ULA custom chip and DOS has been undertaken for Tyrell by Peter Halford, one of the original team of four which designed the Oric

facilities.

Commodore announced *Magic Desk*, a series of 32K Rom software cartridges for the Commodore 64.

Magic Desk provides, on-screen, a pictorial representation of an office. Using a joystick, a screen cursor can



be directed around the picture. By pointing at different parts of the office display and pressing the joystick 'fire' button, different options can be selected: pointing to the filing cabinet gives file handling, pointing to the typewriter gives word-processing.

The first *Magic Desk* cartridge, *Magic Desk 1 - Type and File* has recently gone on sale in the US, priced under \$100. It contains the word-processing and information filing software.

However, *Magic Desk 1* has 1981, its turnover has increased more than 30-fold. In the year ended June, 1981, turnover amounted to £1.36m., considerably less than the £42.35m. recorded in the year ended June, 1983.

1. He left Oric earlier this year.

The ULA for the disc system is being manufactured for ITL by California Devices, the Company which manufactures the ULA in the Oric 1.

The Byte Drive 500, plus power lead, is priced at £167.28. The power supply unit is £25.93 and the connecting cable, interface and operating system disc are £86.45.

ITL is currently looking for high-street distribution for the Byte Drive 500.

The first systems should go on sale by mail-order in early December. More details from ITL, The Old Courthouse, New Road, Chatham, Kent.

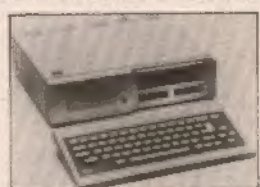
● The first batch of Oric's own 3 inch disc drives, originally planned for delivery in the summer, are not expected until mid-December. Bulk deliveries are not scheduled until 1984.

not been greeted very enthusiastically by Commodore UK.

"We will probably go ahead with *Magic Desk 2* rather than *Magic Desk 1* — it's a better program," explained Commodore UK's marketing manager John Baxter.

Magic Desk 2 is similar to *Magic Desk 1* except it offers additional calculator and home budget software facilities. *Magic Desk 2* is unlikely to appear in the UK until early in 1984.

Software Incompatibility



ALTHOUGH IBM claims that the majority of programs available for the PC will run directly on its new low-cost PCjr, only a small proportion will run directly on the entry model (\$669) version of the machine.

Most of the programs for the PCjr require the more advanced operating system offered by the 2.1 disc operating system of the expanded model (\$1,269).

Of the programs that will run on the entry model, a

Keyboard for 64

A NEW company, Silynn, has announced a full-size music keyboard for the Commodore 64 which will be priced under £150.

Called the Microsound 64, it is a four-octave keyboard which simply plugs into the cartridge port on the Commodore 64. Software, initially available only on disc, then converts keys depressed on the Microsound 64 into musical notes played through the tv loudspeaker.

The device also features two slider controls which operate a simple music synthesiser. Using these it is possible to alter not just the pitch of a note, but also its character.

Notes played on the unit can be stored in the memory of the computer, or saved out either to tape or disc, and recalled.

The software which accompanies the Microsound 64 — on disc — is the first of a series of programs to be produced by Silynn. Future packages will allow more complex musical effects, such as a sequencer using the different voices of the 64 and a hardware/software combination capable of digital sampling.

The Silynn Microsound 64 will be available in mid-December, priced at £125. Details from Autographics, 3a Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames.

Magic Desk delayed

COMMODORE'S *Magic Desk* software for the Commodore 64 computer has been delayed again. The first package is not expected to go on sale in the UK until early next year.

When Apple first announced its Lisa machine in January this year, complete with 'mouse' graphics, Commodore was one of the first companies to announce software packages offering similar

Ted

Continued from page 1

would like to see a Spectrum-basher manufactured at Corby, which would be a cut-down version of the 64 without sprite graphics and advanced sound handling.

Acorn shoot-out

Continued from page 1

Sinclair had a product that would match up to the Acorn BBC machine.

"From Acorn's point of view the renewal is a formality — simply because of the relationship we have with the BBC. If there were going to be any problems we would know by now anyway."

● Since Acorn was awarded the BBC contract in April,

proportion will only work in conjunction with a Basic extension cartridge which itself costs \$75. The so-called *Cassette Basic* in Rom on the entry model is not sufficient.

IBM itself suggests that the enhanced discette version of the PCjr will prove the more popular option. A configuration including the expanded model, tv connector, DOS 2.1 and cartridge Basic will cost over \$1,400. Of the five new software programs announced by IBM specifically for the PCjr, only one will work directly on the entry model, and two of the others require the Basic cartridge to work on the expanded model.

The PCjr, is only on sale at present in the US and Canada. No European launch date is yet available.

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Web: http://www.ultimate.co.uk

LETTERS

Antescher rescue

Just a note to put in my claim for the title of 'First person to rescue all 10 victims from Antescher'.

I bought 3D Ant Attack on 12 November and had completed it by 13 November. Rescuing each victim becomes harder as the game progresses, and as you are up against time as well as the guardian ants, each life saved is a great relief as well as a step nearer to your goal.

My score on completion was 33,106, as well as the gold medal I was presented with at the end of the game. I now throw out the challenge for someone to rescue the 10 prisoners in Antescher in a shorter time than it took me and with a higher score.

I hope Sandy White produces more software of this quality and originality.

Well, must go now as Ant Attack has just finished loading.

D Claypole
6 Hespian Road
Grinton

Peterborough PE6 7JT

Strategy column

I read your magazine regularly and find it quite entertaining. I have therefore noted with interest the idea of an 'arcade corner'.

I would like to propose something different. A strategy/simulation column. I realise many disillusioned Neanderthal alien zappers turn to quests and gold for their entertainment — hence the success of Tony Bridge's page — but another medium from brain to computer is the 'you are in control' idea, ie, strategy/simulation.

The format of such a column would be much the same as Tony's corner — a review, comments and miscellaneous items. Although a subdivision of mind game, software houses do cater for us not-so-rare breed — DK Tronics, Lothlorien, Psion, Severn, CCS and Hewson, to name but a few. Please think about it.

D Mitchell
36 The Moorlands
Hanley Road

Malvern Wells
Worcestershire WR14 4PS
PS. Is New Releases a review or not? If not, then kindly refrain from making criticisms.

As with adventure games, there seems to be a growing interest in strategy and simulation games of all types. Flight simulation programs are particularly popular at the moment.

We would be very interested to hear the views of other strategist/simulators towards such a column.

As for New Releases, it is not intended as a review so much as a round-up of some of the software produced each week (the remainder you can find in our This Week column). But if a program has a feature which is particularly praise/blame-worthy, obviously we will mention it.

Commodore roasting

Can you explain why reviewers such as Andy Penell need to abuse their position by making snide remarks about other computers whilst reviewing? I don't think that his remarks about the Commodore machines were complementary to a review on the Memotech micro.

So the Commodore needs add-ons, so do a lot of micros.

Fascinating patterns

Re Pete Gerrard's item on RCBM 64 (Vol 2, No 44, page 35). Herewith a small alteration, producing fascinating patterns.

Muck about with Z increments (line 70) and FNA (line

You need about £60+ spent on the hallowed Spectrum to bring it anywhere near the Vic for keyboard and sound. Leave off, Mr P — the beloved ZX81 had to go through a roasting, now it looks as though it's the turn of Commodore.

One fed-up ZX81 and Vic owner.

I Boulton
7 Courtney Way
Kingswood
Bristol
BS15 2RX

Ego booster

I would like to reply to Craig Mitchell's 'Waste of space' letter (PCW 10-16 November).

My first point is that he himself wasted space by trying to boost his ego with his amazing high scores. 'Hey man, I've survived 5.3 centillion waves and saved the world's population after consuming a cruise missile, while playing Warfare.'

Point two is that it's Tranzam — note the weird shape after the n.

My last point is that if he understood what Vetpac and Tranzam were, why did he bother to complain? If he understood, then everybody will be able to work it out.

PS. Please keep a few mistakes

14) for further fun. You've got to wait and wait.

N Leigh
7 The Handbridge
Fulwood
Preston PR2 4LE

```
5 POKE53272,PEEK(53272)OR8
7 POKE53265,PEEK(53265)OR32
10 FORI=8192TO8192+7999:POKEI,0:NEXT
12 FORI=1024TO2023:POKEI,1:NEXT
13 Z=0.1
14 DEF FNA(X)=COS(X/Z)
15 FORX=0TO319
20 Y=INT(100+100*FNA(X/10))
25 C=INT(X/8):R=INT(Y/8):L=YAND7
30 BYTE=8192+R*320+8*C+L
40 B=7-(XAND7)
50 POKEBYTE,PEEK(BYTE)OR(2*TB)
55 IFY<2THEN70
60 NEXT
70 Z=Z+0.3:GOTO15
```

in the clasfide pages and perhaps put sum in on purpos. Well done, Diane.

Lance Rock
(address withheld by request)

Competitive urge

Arcade games are certainly the most popular use of home computers, but is it really necessary to fill the valuable space of your letters page with claims of highest scores?

These claims seem particularly futile when you have also published letters describing bugs in some of the games which enable high scores to be achieved easily.

Recently, there was a letter describing the bug in Jetpac where, by standing on the middle platform on the fourth screen, the Jetman can, given time, achieve infinitely high scores without being shot. This week (10-16 November) you published a letter describing a Jetpac score of over a million which can be achieved by anyone capable of reaching the fourth screen.

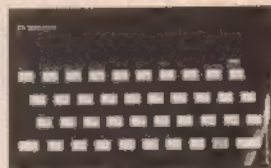
The printer dump or photograph method of validating high scores is easily forged. I enclose a photograph (of poor quality) showing a high score of 999760 on Jetpac. In fact, I simply wrote a program to produce the screen display (about 10 minutes work) and could have inserted any value for the high score.



Perhaps the arcade fans could organise some events where the competitive urge could be satisfied. Hire a hall, set up a couple of Spectrums, load them with a popular program and let the alien zappers fight it out live. By charging an entry fee, the organisers could probably make a reasonable profit. This would leave the letters page free for some more thoughtful letters.

Simon Cross
Boland House
Guy's Hospital
London SE1 9RT

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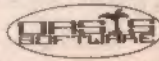
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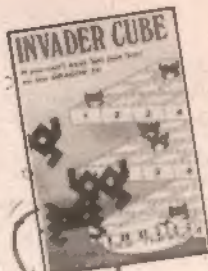
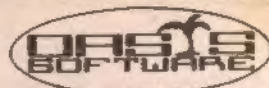
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Amoeba's Playtime

A new game for 48K Spectrum by Terry Wiley

Down at the Microscopic Zoo, Fang the Killer Amoeba is happily squishing around the deserted Bacteria Compound. But playtime is over, and it's time to put the bacteria back.

Fang is annoyed at this interruption, and will eat the bacteria if they are left unprotected, so you must attempt to enclose bits of the compound with amoeba-proof fences, where the bacteria can be safely re-introduced.

The fence-layer (a little blue block at the bottom of the screen) can be moved around the edges of existing fences with the cursor keys 5 to 8, and can draw new fences by also pressing CAPS SHIFT. However, be warned that uncompleted (red) fences are vulnerable to Fang, and if he hits one you become his next meal and the game will end.

To safely complete a fence, join it to the compound wall or to another completed region, and the empty pen will fill with bacteria. One point is obtained for every bacterium introduced, and if you manage to introduce more than 6,000 bacteria, Fang will give up and go back to his cage. Each bacterium above this threshold scores 2 points; note that you need 100 extra bacteria each screen to subdue Fang.

To enter the program, do the following:

- (1) Produce, as line one, a REM followed by 230 'r's
- (2) Edit the REM line number to 2 to make another REM-ful of 'r's
- (3) Type in this machine code loader:
3 INPUT A,B: FOR N = A TO B: INPUT "": "

POKE N,Z: PRINT N,Z: NEXT N

- (4) Run the program twice with the following INPUT:
(i) 23762, 23987, then the code in fig. 1
(ii) 24000, 24203, then fig. 11

Save the program if you wish to test the code; *Usr 24000* should turn the screen black; *Plot 100,0 : Draw 255,0 : Plot 120,0 : Draw 255,0 : Randomize 28270 : Let Z = Usr 23762* should produce a band of bacteria (dots).

There are two other routines, *Usr 24024* and *Usr 23954*, which require numerous Pokes and don't have a fixed effect (one moves Fang, the other creeps around boundaries looking for a specified point) which are best tested by the program itself, so check the code carefully and Save the whole program (lines 3 to 4010 from the listing, plus the two REM's) before running it.



[illegible]

Fig 1

[illegible]

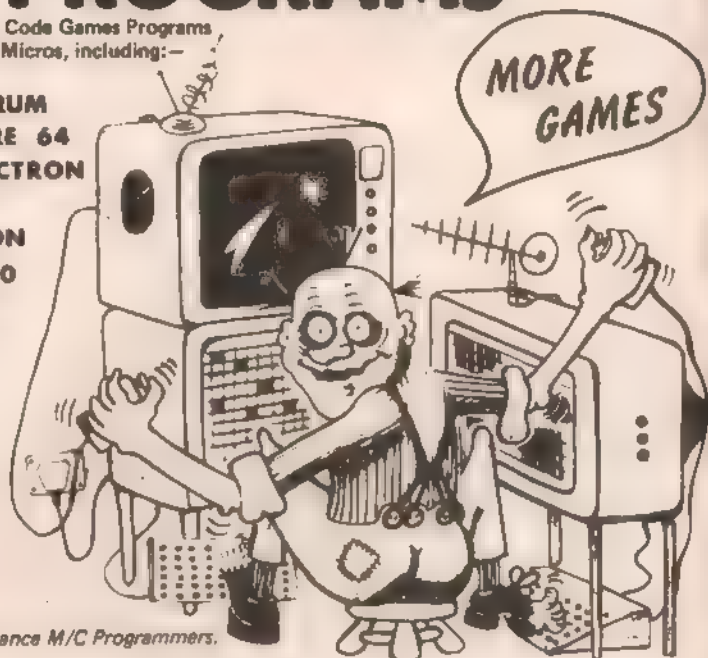
Fig 2

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REWARD

Budding superstars

Graham Taylor looks at the growing links between electronic keyboards and micros

What costs between £40 and £500, has a memory, is programmable, and can be used with add-ons like light pens? It's a Casio keyboard.

Just as microcomputers have moved out of the specialist shops and now flourish in toy stores, book shops and supermarkets, so electronic keyboards have moved out from the specialist music shops.

A Casio electronic keyboard is a bit like an organ, but is capable of very unorgan-like sounds. It's a bit like a synthesizer, but is very easy to program. In some respects, it's even a bit like a computer.

Casio Electronics is a Japanese company whose pre-tax profits rose by 13.4 percent to around £20m (£7bn) in the half year ending in September. Although Casio is involved in a number of electrical products, all of which have grown in sales, the really startling growth is found in their office computers and their electronic musical instruments — up by an enormous 50 per cent.

Britain has taken the Casio keyboard to its heart; the basic model, the VL-1, has sold nearly half a million since its release in May 1981.

Dave Caulfield is the National Sales Manager for Casiotone UK. Even he is surprised by their success: "We've tried to do an analysis of our market, but it's really impossible to come to any specific conclusions — there seems to be almost no type of consumer who couldn't be a prospective purchaser."

"Britain has always been full of weekend musicians — people who play for their own amusement at the weekend — no musical instrument manufacturers could manage on the sales of the big name groups, but Casio has gone beyond that."

As with computers, the technology is getting relatively cheaper and much more widely available. "With a four-track cassette machine and a mid-range Casio, you have about as much equipment in your home as the Beatles had for their early records," explained Dave.

The instruments are, inevitably, the result of microchip technology. The internal workings, complete with sound and rhythm chips, memory, and input/output ports would be familiar territory to computer buffs.

Just as computers have an international standard for connecting one to the other — RS232 — so the latest generation of electronic keyboards have a similar standard interface called MIDI, or musical instrument digital interface. This enables one keyboard to be played from another set to different sound styles; eg, brass on one and strings on another. "You could also slightly de-tune one of the keyboards to get a very full, spacey sound," explained Dave.

To complement the new Casio keyboards, the company will be selling interfaces for the best selling micros — this will almost certainly include Commodore, Acorn and Sinclair.

Surprisingly, perhaps, Dave does not see the computer adding much to the quality and range of sounds available from the micro. "If that were the only point of the interface, why bother? Even the VL-1 has more sound facilities than most of the micros — certainly for practical musical purposes."

The real point of the computer link Dave sees as educational. "As much as anything else, we're trying to make it easy to learn music and it's important to give people visual references — it's something we've tried to do using the LEDs that light up each note as it's played, but obviously with a tv screen we could do much better."

To this end, Casio are starting to look at software houses as potential independent suppliers of educational material. "I see us consulting with a software house in terms of technical information, but it's the visual display that will be really important — there are so many different ways the two things could be tied together."

Whatever the future of the keyboard-micro linkup, one thing seems clear from even a cursory glance at the latest machines — some fundamental computing concepts are being incorporated. Perhaps the most interesting of these is the idea of Rom and Ram cartridges.

Two machines, the MT 800 and the PT 50, include cartridge slots very much like those on computers.



Rom cartridges contain groups of popular pieces of music which the Casio will play automatically. Budding superstars and egomaniacs everywhere can even connect a microphone to the machine and mix in their voice to sing along with the music.

The PT 50 can also accept Ram cartridges, which perhaps the most important new development. The Ram cartridges are used, rather like a tape recorder with computers, to store your own creations for retrieval at a later stage.

The idea of Ram is likely to be extended further, using it to store actual sound types for example. "If you wanted, you could have no sounds built into the keyboards — just cartridges containing various sound building blocks whose parameters you can change using the instrument."

A similar idea is already found in some of the Casios including the VL-1 using the ADSR function which stands for attack, decay, sustain, release. This gives the main features of the preset sounds a numerical code consisting of level, envelope and modulation. These can then be mixed in any combination to give a wide range of sounds different to, but derived from, the presets.

In principle, this idea could be extended to give virtually limitless ranges of sounds. The Casio 1000P, for example, is capable of most things an expensive synthesizer can produce, merely by manipulating 10 presets in exactly this way.

Casio has plenty of competitors, including Seiko and the mighty Yamaha, but Dave is confident. "Casio won't produce anything unless we are sure there is a big market for it. We've been aware of the computer market for a long time, but basically we've made a decision not to get involved either with the keyboards or by, say, issuing our own home computer."

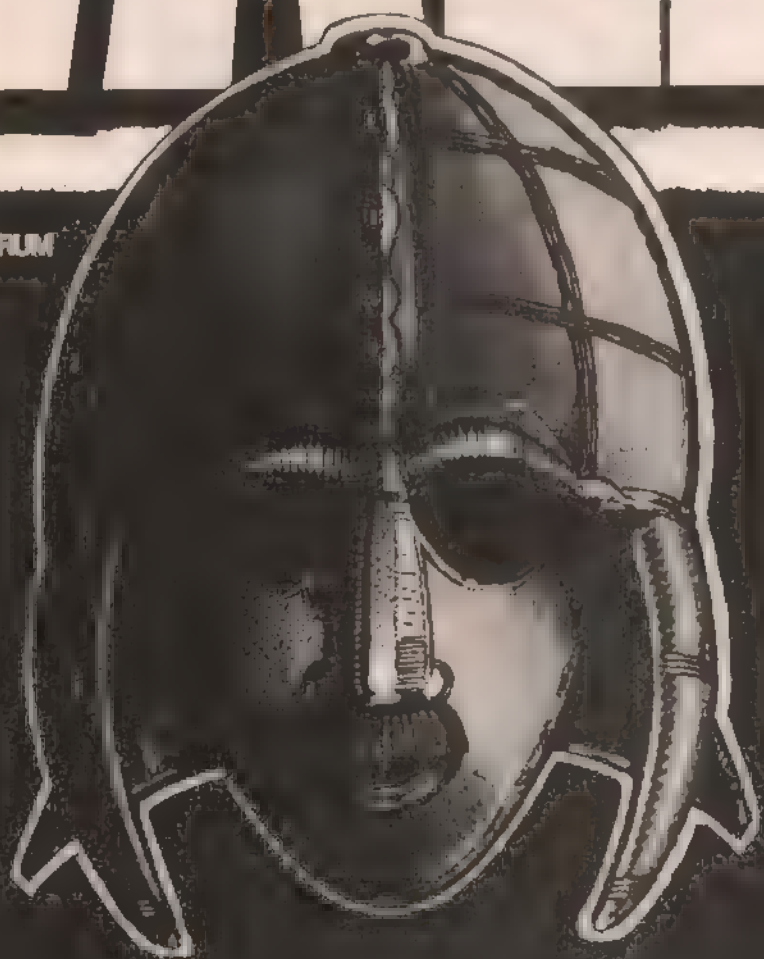
Next year will see the demise of many well-known computer companies, predicts Dave. "It's a good job we've kept on the sidelines. Look at the big names who are in trouble — the shakeout has already started."

"By the middle of next year, we'll have keyboards with interfaces built in and we'll cover the major micros by providing appropriate connectors. But, with the Casio keyboard I think we've discovered genuine consumer product — something that appeals to all sorts of people for all sorts of reasons. I sometimes wonder if that's really true of home computers."



WALF

48K SPECTRUM



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2004 W 47

The expanding Dragon

Keith and Steven Brain take a look at the range of enhancements now on the market for the Dragon

Nothing the user might want to do with it and therefore it is usual for a range of enhancements to come on to the market from independent suppliers. The Dragon is well supported by the independents who offer a wide range of products on cassette, cartridge, and now disc.

These offer a wide range of facilities, but it is often difficult to compare their capabilities with the advertising claims. This review takes a look at many of the products now available and evaluates the potential benefits to the user.

One of the main criticisms of the Dragon centres on the text display. Many people feel that 32 columns is not enough, and that true lower case characters are really essential. There are several ways of remedying this problem by generating high-resolution characters within a Basic program, but several companies are now offering machine code programs providing text on the hi-res screen. Below are details of four of these which differ somewhat in their capabilities and price; two of these are "Hybrid" products offering "high-res text" and "tool kit" functions at the same time.

Scribe (Premier Software) is available on tape and the Delta disc system. It produces upper and lower case on a 42*24 display in *Pmode 4* only. The size matrix was apparently selected as the largest which can be guaranteed to be clearly legible on most domestic TVs and it

numbers, although this procedure is clearly explained and instructions are given for saving your redefined character set.

Scribe is compatible with the other Premier utilities and will often be used in conjunction with them. At £13.95 on cassette or £14.95 on disc, *Scribe* offers reasonable value for money, if you only want to produce a relatively straightforward 'true text' display.

Rainbow-Writer (Microdeal) was originally written for the Tandy CoCo by Rainbow Connection Software and it is the only commercial software we have seen so far on a Dragon Disc, although apparently Microdeal plan to sell discs configured for the Premier/Cumana Delta system.

There are two versions of *Rainbow-Writer* provided, which give 32/42 characters a line or 50/64 characters a line. In each case you can alter the distance between each character by specifying a low-density (32 or 50) or a high-density (42 or 64) mode. You can also enlarge characters up to a massive 16*8 which is good for titles and educational purposes.

The character sets can be redefined and if you want to save memory you can load in only a partial set. The program locates itself at the top of memory and it therefore does not interfere with many other enhancements. You can produce legible text in any *Pmode* as well as different size, width and colour characters,

subscripts, superscripts, inverse video and underlining.

You can also produce artefactual colours in *Pmode 4*, protect parts of the screen from scrolling, and mix the facilities on the screen at the same time. At any point you can call up a *Help* screen which tells you the current settings of the program. A demonstration program showing the

advanced features of *Rainbow-Writer* and a good on-screen character generator are included.

John Symes says that the Dragon distributor in Greece is giving away a copy of *Rainbow-Writer* with the Greek character set with every machine! The only real wrinkle is that the display commands must be called by Escape sequences, rather than new Basic commands, so that you have to type *Print CHR\$(27) "***"* each time (where *** is one of many commands). Of course you could predefine the

command sequences you will be using frequently as strings.

This is the most flexible of the high-resolution text enhancements and even though the price is around £20, it is good value if you are going to use the versatile facilities. It is interesting to note that encouragement and a 'limited licence' is given to the incorporation of the program into commercial software, rather than the usual dire (and ineffective!) threats.

Edit+ (including *Hi-res*) (Compusense) is a cartridge so it uses very little of the Dragon memory, but of course it effectively blocks the expansion port so that you cannot add anything else. Two instruction booklets are included, one for *Hi-res* and one for *Edit+*, and since *Hi-res* is also sold separately we will consider the facilities of that first.

The program produces 51*24 character display, but only operates in *Pmode 4*, which becomes the default mode whenever you use *Print* or a prompt appears. There are four *Print* commands: *Print* uses the whole 51*24 matrix, but *Print w* uses a 32*16 window so that it is compatible with the normal Dragon display and you can test normal-mode programs. *Print f* is similar to the standard *Print* (i.e., but works on the 51*24 matrix, and *Print %* prints 'sprites' which are specified by X and Y coordinates.

These sprites are actually characters which are put on the screen with exclusive-OR logic, and the sprite mode is rather irritating use as the prompts, cursor, and *Print* command become distorted. Nine character sets are included (although many of the 'different' characters are the same) and characters can be redefined, although this must be done by calculating binary numbers and the definition must be saved as a separate program.

The *Cls* command is extended to provide a number of functions and control codes are also used to provide some extra features. Auto-repeat is included, but there is a very long delay before it is activated.

The *Edit+* "full screen editor and programmers tool kit" is only activated when you type *Edit*. It displays the program on the 51*24 screen and has editing features of the type usually found on word processors. Reading programs formatted to 51 characters was rather difficult and the screen refresh was very slow so that it took a long time to work through a program.

The editing and "tool kit" facilities were not very impressive especially when compared to the competition, and at £25 for *Hi-res* and £34 for *Hi-res* with *Edit+*, rather over-priced. The cartridge approach is not the most logical way to provide these facilities.

Picture Writer (Rampage) is more than just a text on hi-res screen program as it includes some useful extensions to Basic. It is supplied on a tape which auto-starts, and it sits at the bottom of memory. The

THIS IS SCRIBE IN UPPER CASE

THIS IS SCRIBE IN UPPER and lower CASE

PRINT CHR\$(1)

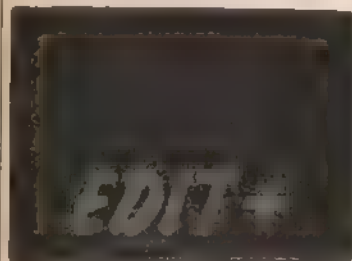
THIS IS SCRIBE UNDER LINED

PRINT CHR\$(1) CHR\$(2)

THIS IS SCRIBE

was certainly very clear on the three sets tried.

Automatic underlining and inverse characters are available using *Print CHR\$(n)* and the *Print w* command uses the 42*24 grid. Another extremely useful command is *Put (x, Y, n)* which allows you to place a character anywhere on the screen to within one screen point, allowing you to produce subscripts, superscripts and 'sprites'. The *Print f* command allows you to redefine characters, but you have to calculate these as a series of binary



display is only 32x16 but it has true upper and lower case, a full screen cursor, commands to program the cursor through Print statements, and it is a great improvement over the standard display.

A major difference to the other text on high-res programs is that you have separate control over text and graphics where these are mixed. There are three types of screen clear. *Pcls* or *Cls* just clears any graphics on the screen and leaves the text, *Cist* clears the text and leaves the graphics, and *Cls* clears both.

You can specify scroll protected areas or *Freeze* the screen completely, and scroll the text over static graphics. Characters can be redefined using either binary codes or a proper screen-based character generator which is activated by the *Char* command, and *Csave* saves character sets without the need to remember addresses, and allows you to save only parts of the character set.

If you type *Graf Off* you go back to the normal Dragon display but the additional Basic commands are still available, including the full screen cursor. The keyboard is redefined so that the graphic characters can be accessed directly from the keyboard, and use abbreviated keyword entry. You can set the keyboard back to normal with *Key Off* and auto-repeat and a bell are included which can be turned on and off by *Rep On/Off* and *Bell On/Off*.

An *Old* command is provided which will normally resurrect a program which was accidentally *Newed*, and you can switch between *Fast* and *Slow* mode.

This program offers a useful extension to the facilities of the Dragon and at £10 it is excellent value for money.

Although the Basic commands for handling sound in the Microsoft Extended Colour Basic used on the Dragon are very easy to use, only one sound channel is available which is rather limiting, and the

'speech' produced by *Computavoice* and programs like *Talking Android Attack* is pretty unintelligible.

On the other hand *The Dragon Composer* program (Microdeal/Speech Systems) solves the music problem as it gives you four sound channels, each one with up to seven octaves. You enter tunes in a format which has some resemblance to the *Play* command, but in *Data* statements which are placed at the end of part of the composer program. For example:

```
3010 DATA D5G4D4B4Q
```

means:

```
Play note D in octave 5 in channel one
      4          two
      4          three
      4          four
```

(All the notes being quavers (Q))

Fifteen lengths from a whole note to a 1/32 note are allowed, sharps and flats are available, and the tempo and key can be changed. Comprehensive editing and saving facilities are included and when you have entered your tune you can compile it into a self-contained machine code subroutine with the *Compile Source* command.

You can *Play* this *Music* directly, but an important feature is *Composer* that you can also use this compiled routine to add first-class sound to any other program. Although the processor is totally dedicated to producing the sound you can put the command *Basic* into the *Data* return control to *Basic* during a tune, so that you can arrange to interrupt it if necessary.

This program completely transforms the sound output of the Dragon and even at £15 it is good value for money and includes very clear instructions.

You are never going to get real speech without extra hardware such as that used in the *Speech Synthesis Module* (JCB Microsystems) which is a cartridge giving very clear speech with only a slight transatlantic accent. It uses a General Instrument SP0256 Speech Processor and a custom ROM containing predefined words.

A clear manual is provided which explains in detail everything you could possibly want to know about the system. The simplest method is to use the *Say* command which allows you to easily produce any of the predefined words. For example, a polite computer might start by saying to the user:

```
10 SAY "HELLO 3, GOOD 3, MORNING 5, 1, 2, AM
4 YOUR 4, DRAGON 4, COMPUTER, I"
20 SAY "PLEASE 4, TYPE 4, YOUR 4, INSTRUCTION 4"
```

The *Say* commands deals with numbers and is very impressive when you give it values like 123456789 which immediately comes out as 'one hundred and twenty three million, four hundred and fifty six thousand, seven hundred and eighty nine' and if you add a zero to the end it instantly converts it to '1.23456789 exponent plus nine'. Equations like *Say 120 2/3* are allowed and it automatically rounds up after eight places.

In addition you can use the 64 allophones (individual speech sounds) to create any word which is then called by the *Speak* command. Using allophones takes some practice and experimentation to get the desired result but it extends the range of the module to an infinite vocabulary. For example, you might like to add the word 'master' to that request for instructions:

```
30 SPEAK "MM,AR,SS,TT,2,ER,1,4"
```

The *Add* command allows you to mix *Say* and *Speak* to form likes like:

```
ADD SAY "BY 4, DRAGON 4, SAY 32, SAY
GAMES, 1" SPEAK "SS, 4, MM, AR, SS, TT,
ER, 1, 4" SAY "3, K, 4"
```

You can also *Say* or *Speak* strings and *Say* variables. As these commands do not halt the program you can mix speech and graphics very effectively and while the computer is actually speaking you can do almost anything else with it, except create sound, or use the joysticks or cassette interface.

It is obviously a great asset in education, and in producing really 'user-friendly' programs. £37.95 is a fair price for this useful add-on.

Firm	Program	Cost
Compusense Ltd PO Box 169 286D Green Lanes London N13 5XA	Dragon Edit+	£34 (+H-res)
JCB Microsystems 29 Southbourne Road Bournemouth BH6 5AE	Speech Synthesis Module	£37.95
Microdeal 41 Truro Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 5JE	Rainbow Writer Dragon composer	£20 £15
Premier 206 Croydon Road Anerly London SE20 7YX	Scribe	£13.95
Rampage 32 Birchwood Drive Wilmington Dartford Kent PA2 7NE	Picture Writer	£10

End of the line

WR Masfield explains how to calculate the frequency response of 4-terminal networks

This program for the ZX Spectrum was developed to be a time-saving aid in the calculation of voltage transfer ratios and input and output impedances of simple 4-terminal electrical networks containing resistance, inductance and capacitance. It is not an exhaustive treatment and is applicable only to networks which can be reduced to a sequence of series and shunt sections of the general form shown in Figure 1.

The method of calculation is by simple A-matrices. For those not familiar with matrix algebra, the following brief account may be of help — for a fuller treatment, you should consult a textbook.

Briefly, any 4-terminal network having passive components — resistance (R), inductance (L) and Capacitance (C) — can be represented in the form of a 2×2 matrix (Figure 2). There are several ways in which the matrix can be made up. For our purposes, the one relating input vol-

tage and current to output voltage and current (the so-called A-matrix), is the one to use (Figure 3). This has the advantage that, for a sequence of sections of a network, the overall matrix is the product of the individual section matrices taken in sequential order:

$$(A) = (A_1) \times (A_2) \dots (A_n)$$

Matrix multiplication follows a special rule, as shown in Figure 4.

Any series of shunt section can be represented by a simple matrix of the form shown in Figure 5. These matrices are then multiplied together to give the overall matrix. Once the overall matrix has been found, it is a simple matter to derive the frequency response of the complete network, since the voltage transfer ratio is given by:

$$\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} = \frac{1}{A_{11}} \text{ with output open-circuit.}$$

and the input and output impedances by:

$$Z_{IN} = \frac{A_{11}}{A_{21}} \text{ with output open-circuit,}$$

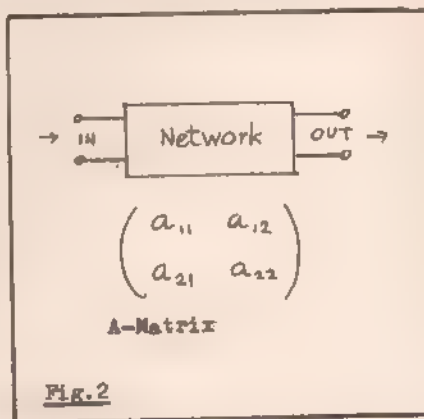
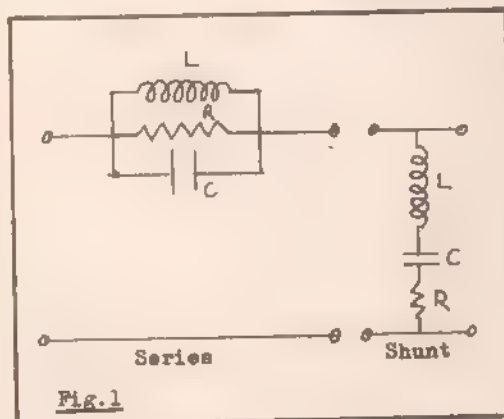
and

$$Z_{OUT} = \frac{A_{22}}{A_{21}} \text{ with input open-circuit.}$$

This program is easily adapted for other machines, as it makes no use of artful dodges. On Run, the user is asked to input the number of sections, whether they are series or shunt and all the components of the sections, in turn. Where a particular component is absent a zero is entered. For example, if a section contains resistance only, then zero is entered for inductance and capacitance. The computer recognises the zero to mean "no inductance" or "no capacitance", not as a short-circuit or open-circuit condition.

After putting in all the components, the next prompt is for frequency. As written, the maximum frequency is 9,999,999Hz (almost 10MHz) — anything larger will exceed the print format.

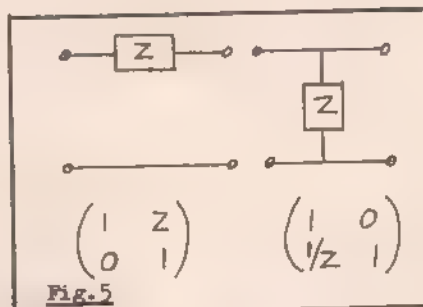
The program takes a few seconds to work out the answers, depending on how many sections have to be multiplied together. After display, the next frequency can be entered and so the response is gradually built up. As an example, Figure 6 shows a simple network and the printout obtained for it.



$$\begin{pmatrix} V_{IN} \\ I_{IN} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_{OUT} \\ I_{OUT} \end{pmatrix}$$

A-Matrix Equation

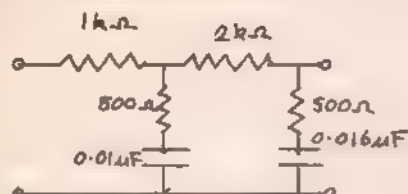
Fig. 3



$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} + a_{12}b_{21} & a_{11}b_{12} + a_{12}b_{22} \\ a_{21}b_{11} + a_{22}b_{21} & a_{21}b_{12} + a_{22}b_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrix Multiplication

Fig. 4



4-Section Network and Frequency Response

FREQUENCY RESPONSE OF 4-SECTION NETWORK

Freq. (Hz)	V _o /V _i -in (VdB)	Z-in (Ohms)	Z-out (Ohms)
50	-0.2	124152	122722
100	-0.3	62966	61508
200	-0.6	32354	30899
500	-1.3	13975	12531
1000	-0.8	7850	6402
2000	-5	4727	3330
5000	-9.6	2796	1473
10000	-14.6	2086	854
20000	-19.4	1598	569

Fig. 6

```

5 REM NETWORK FREQUENCY RESP
N5E
5 REM © U.R.Hasefield 1983
10 CLEAR : INPUT "No. of Sects"
ons7:n
20 DIM b(3#n) : LET k=1
30 LET s$="" : FOR j=1 TO n : IN
PUT "Section ",j," Series or Sh
unt?",a$
40 LET s$=s$+a$(2 TO 2)
50 CLS : PRINT FLASH 1;AT 18,0
; "Enter zero for any R, L or C n
ot present"
60 INPUT "Resistance? (Ohms)";
b(k), "Inductance? (Henries)"; b(k+
1), "Capacitance? (Farads)"; b(k+2)
70 LET k=k+3 : NEXT j
100 CLS : PRINT "FREQUENCY RESP
ONSE OF": PRINT TAB 6;N;"-SECTIO
N NETWORK": PRINT
110 PRINT "Freq. Vo/Vi-in Z
-in Z-out"
120 PRINT " (Hz) (VdB) (O
hms) (Ohms)"
130 INPUT "Frequency? (Hz)";f
140 LET k=1 : LET j=1 : GO SUB 30
0
150 LET c1=d1 : LET c2=d2 : LET c
3=d3 : LET c4=d4
160 FOR i=1 TO n-1 : LET k=k+3 :
LET j=j+1 : GO SUB 300
170 LET e1=c1*d1+c2*d3 : LET e2=
c1*d2+c2*d4
180 LET e3=c3*d1+c4*d3 : LET e4=
c3*d2+c4*d4

```

```

190 LET c1=e1 : LET c2=e2 : LET c
3=e3 : LET c4=e4 : NEXT i
200 LET v=20*LN (1/a1)/LN 10 : L
ET v=INT (v/.1+.5)*.1
210 LET zi=INT (e1/e3+.5) : LET
zo=INT (e4/e3+.5)
220 PRINT TAB 8-LEN STR$ f;f;TA
B 11,v;TAB 24-LEN STR$ zi;zi;TAB
32-LEN STR$ zo;zo
230 GO TO 130
300 REM Matrix SBR
310 IF s$(j TO j)="h" OR s$(j T
O j)="H" THEN GO TO 390
320 IF b(k)=0 THEN LET g=0 : GO
TO 340
330 LET g=1/b(k)
340 IF b(k+1)=0 THEN LET bl=0 :
GO TO 360
350 LET bl=1/(2*PI*f*b(k+1))
360 LET bc=b(k+2)*2*PI*f : LET z
=1/SQR (g*g+ABS ((bl-bc)*(bl-bc)
))
370 LET d1=1 : LET d2=z : LET d3=
0 : LET d4=1
380 RETURN
390 LET r=b(k) : LET x1=b(k+1)*2
*PI*f
400 IF b(k+2)=0 THEN LET xc=0 :
GO TO 420
410 LET xc=1/(2*PI*f*b(k+2))
420 LET y=1/SQR (r*r+ABS ((x1-x
c)*(x1-xc)))
430 LET d1=1 : LET d2=0 : LET d3=
y : LET d4=1
440 RETURN

```

Fig. 7

Rudely interrupted

Alan Went unmasks some of the secrets hidden in the Spectrum interrupts

The Z80 processor used in the Spectrum has a set of connections and instructions that allow the normal running of a program to be interrupted, and a sub-routine called and Run, before returning to the main routine.

Two types of interrupt are allowed on the Z80. Firstly, the non maskable interrupt. When the signal on this pin is activated, the processor will always jump to location 66H and Run the routine there. This is not used on the Spectrum.

Secondly, the maskable interrupt. A signal on this pin will cause one of three courses of action to occur, depending on the interrupt mode selected. In mode 1, the cpu executes an instruction provided by an external device. This mode is not used on the Spectrum.

Mode 2 is the normal Spectrum mode. When an interrupt occurs, the cpu stores its current program address and jumps to location 38H (56 dec) and continues from there. The Spectrum routine here increments the Frames (Timer) variable, then reads the keyboard. The hardware is arranged such that these interrupts occur every 20mS (50 times per sec).

When the interrupt occurs, the cpu forms an address using the contents of the I register as the high part of the address and the value placed on the data bus by the interrupting device as the lower part of the address. The contents of the address so formed are used as the address to jump to. Thus, a table of subroutine start addresses can be held in memory, with the interrupting device combining with the I register to look up the appropriate address for that device. If no data byte is placed on the data bus, the cpu will read FFH (255 dec) and thus look at the address $I + 256 + 255$ (and + 1 as a 16 bit address is required), and jump to the address stored there.

When the Spectrum is running a Basic program, and during editing, the interrupts are enabled, and only disabled during time-critical routines such as *Save/Load* or when using the beeper. Interrupt mode 1 is selected at all times, and the I register contains 3FH (63 dec).

By changing the cpu into IM2, we can cause the Spectrum to call our own machine code routines 50 times per second. To do this, we need to set the I register to a value where the cpu can find a suitable address for our routine. The value of I must, in the Spectrum, stay below 3FH as it is used when outputting the display — setting I to above 40H will give 'snow' on the screen.

So, we need to find somewhere, where the memory will always contain the same value, and that value will form part of a suitable address for our routine. Looking through the Rom we find that if $I = 9$, then locations 09FF H/0A00 H (2559/2560) contain the address FE69 H (65129) which is a suitable address for a routine in a 48K Spectrum. For a 16K version $I = 28H$ produces a jump to 7E5C H (32348).

Therefore, by changing the value of I to

9 or 40, we can make the cpu call our own routines. The routines in listing 1 show the method used to change/restore the I register and set the interrupt mode, so switching the interrupt routines on and off.

Listing 2 is the Basic program we will be using to Load our routines into place. Type it in and Save it, then Run. To check the switching routine, line 100 causes a jump back to the normal interrupt routine. Try switching it on and off — the machine should not crash and no effect should be noticed.

Note: the first figure in the line 100 always equals the number of bytes to be poked into place:

RAND USA 65110 (16K — 32330) turns ON RAND USA 65120 (16K 32340) — turns OFF.

Border. Add listing 3 to your basic program and Save it, as with all routines before Running. This short routine sets the Border to be always the same as the permanent Paper colour — the demo program starting at line 200 shows this in action. Enter as a direct command *Poke 65131, 120* (16K 32350) and the Border will now flash as the contents of the timer (23672) is sent to the Border.

List 2(a)

```

1 REM List 2
10 REM BASE PROGRAM
   INTERRUPT ON/OFF
15 REM 48K SPECTRUM
25 REM START INTERRUPT WITH
   RAND USA 65110
28 REM END INTERRUPT WITH
   RAND USA 65120
30 REM © Alan D. Went 1983
40 CLEAR 65110
50 FOR A=65110 TO 65128: READ
B: POKE A,B: NEXT A
55 READ C: LET C=C+65128: FOR
A=65129 TO C: READ B: POKE A,B:
NEXT A
60 DATA 62,9,237,71,237,94,201
70 DATA 0,0,0,62,62,237,71,237
80,201,0,0
90 REM INTERRUPT ROUTINE START
   AT LINE 100.
100 DATA 3,195,56,00

```

List 2(b) 16K

```

1 REM List 2 (b)
10 REM BASE PROGRAM
   INTERRUPT ON/OFF
15 REM 16K SPECTRUM
25 REM START INTERRUPT WITH
   RAND USA 32330
28 REM END INTERRUPT WITH
   RAND USA 32340
30 REM © Alan D. Went 1983
40 CLEAR 32329
50 FOR A=32330 TO 32347: READ
B: POKE A,B: NEXT A
55 READ C: LET C=C+32347: FOR
A=32348 TO C: READ B: POKE A,B:
NEXT A
60 DATA 62,40,237,71,237,94,20
70 DATA 0,0,0,62,63,237,71,237
80,201,0
90 REM INTERRUPT ROUTINE START
   AT LINE 100.
100 DATA 3,195,56,00

```

Listing 1 On/Off Routines. Assembler

Addr	Code Label	Inst
FE56	3E09 ON	LD A,9
FE58	ED47	LD I,A
FE5A	ED5E	IM2
FE5C	C9	RET
FE5D	00	NOP
FE5E	00	NOP
FE5F	00	NOP
FE60	3E3F OFF	LD A,3FH
FE62	ED47	LD I,A
FE64	ED56	IM1
FE66	C9	RET
FE67	00	NOP
FE68	00	NOP
FE69	Interrupt Routine Starts here.	

Sound. We can make the Spectrum beep continuously, even when Running a program. Reload listing 2 and add listing 4. Save and Run, then Run line 200 (change values for 16K) and your Spectrum will sing to you!

If locations 65134 and 65137 (16K 32353 and 32356) are Poked with other values as shown, the tone can be changed. The higher the number, the purer the tone, but the less time allowed to spend running the program and it runs very slowly.

Break disable. One disadvantage of Basic programs, at times, is that they can be stopped, by pressing *Caps Shift Space*.

The next interrupt routine will disable that function. This works by checking the system variable *Errr* for error code *L Break* into program. When this is detected, the code for *Cont* is entered into the editing area and then, having ensured that the system variables *Oldppc* and *Ospcc* (see p175 Spectrum manual) are correct, a jump is made to the Rom routine that runs a direct command. This has the same effect as pressing *Cont* and *Enter* after a break. Thus, the program continues with the next statement.

To use this in your own programs, add listing 5 to the base program and merge into your program or, after running *Save*

"break" Code 65110.77 (16K 32330.77). Load into your program after *Clear 65109 (32329)*: Load "break" Code. Adding the line *Rand Usr 65110 (32330)* to your program will then turn the routine on.

Moving display. This routine is designed to show how the screen can be manipulated with an interrupt routine. The chosen lines of the display are moved one pixel to the left on each interrupt. This could be used, for example, to produce a moving landscape, with a game taking place overhead. The part of the screen that moves is a block, up to eight lines deep, starting from the top, middle or bottom of the screen.

When listing 6 has been added, *Save* and Run, *Poke 65137,(32353)* with the number of lines to be moved and *Poke 65135 (32351)* with:

64 for top third of screen
72 for middle third
80 for bottom third

The program at line 200 (listing 6) gives some examples of this in action.

Trace/Memory Free. This last and longest routine gives the Spectrum a trace command. This places on screen the line and statement number as the program is Run — also the amount of unused memory. The speed that the program runs can be adjusted from 75 percent normal speed to very slow.

One line of the screen is cleared and used as the status line. The first number shown is the memory report. Direct commands are checked for and shown as line 0000.01. The routine contains its own print routine, so that it will always function even with the printer running.

To use, *Poke 65199 (32418)* with the required speed (not above 40 approx), then turn the routine on. The speed can be changed when trace is on. After use in debugging, etc, it could be replaced in your final program with the break/disable routine previously described.

Note, to save code only: *Save "trace" Code 65110.176 (32330.176)* and reload as in the break/disable example.

In this article I have shown some of the ways in which interrupts can be used within programs — it is now up to you to improve them and write your own. When doing this, the following points must be borne in mind:

- (1) Always *Save* the contents of any register that you use and restore it again before turning to the main routine.
- (2) When an interrupt occurs, the cpu disables any further interrupt to prevent an interrupt service routine from being interrupted, thus forming an unbreakable loop. Therefore, always ensure that the *EI* (interrupt enable) command is used before returning to the main routine.
- (3) If you require the Spectrum to read the keyboard and your routine does not do so, end with *JP 0038H* — this will read the keys, etc — and then return to the main routine. Otherwise, end service routine with a *Return* instruction. ■

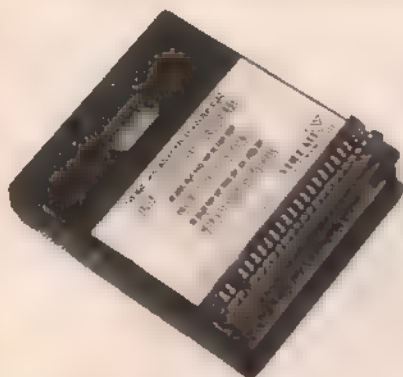
List 3

```

90:REM INTERRUPT ROUTINE START
    AT LINE 100.
100:STOP
101:REM SOUND 48K OR 16K
102:DATA 16,245,18,141,15,15
103:DATA 16,245,18,141,15,15
104:DATA 16,245,18,141,15,15
105:DATA 16,245,18,141,15,15
106:DATA 16,245,18,141,15,15
107:DATA 16,245,18,141,15,15
108:DATA 16,245,18,141,15,15
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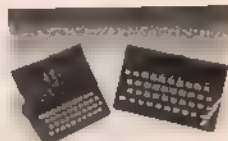
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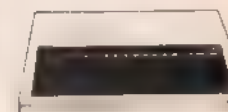
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A cosmic experience

Michael Pearce presents a *Cosmic Lander* program written on OS 1.2 for model B or 32K A

With a minimum amount of fuel left, your space-craft is orbiting the planet below. Gravity and strong cross-winds are pulling your craft quickly down — the only hope you have of saving your ship is by landing it on one of the pressure pads.

But, this task will not be easy. The slightest movement or too fast landing will lead to your ship being blown up. Also, cosmic stars float above the surface and on some occasions will cause an explosion. On some screens, landing pads do not appear, so death is imminent no matter what happens. The more screens you clear, the more intense the winds become.

The program has full instructions and a signature tune. The landing screen is drawn in hi-res colour graphics, with stars and a 3D perspective graphics landscape. Landing pads are randomly placed. The ship is two characters high. Fuel readout is at the top of the screen.

Keys for the game are:

Z ... Left

C ... Right
 ▀ ... Thrust

It is unwise to keep your hand on a key for too long. Once the craft starts drifting too fast, it will be hard to stop. If you crash into the top, or sides, of the screen, your craft will explode.

If the screen set-up is not to your liking, add this line:

```
655 IF AS="P" THEN GOTO 346
```

On the press of P, the screen will be redrawn, though the variables will stay the same.

Variables

CA	Craft position across screen
CB	Craft position down screen
DRIFT	Wind force
DEC	Descent rate
CAB	Steps step of movement across screen
SN	Steps to go
SC	Score

Notes

10-230 Instructions and signature tune

240-330	User defined graphics and sound effects
350-560	Set up screen display
570-680	Prints craft and waits for keyboard input
690-730	Deletes ship
740-830	Checks for crash or land
830-990	Crashes, checks for end of game
910-950	Lands, adds up score
960-1000	Updates instruments
1010-1060	End of game, wait for new start

Proc statements

PROCscreen	Sets up screen
PROCcraft	Print craft waits for instructions
PROCmoving	Blacks out craft
PROCpos	Checks for crash or land
PROCcrash	Crashes craft
PROCland	Lands craft
PROCinst	Updates instruments
PROCend	Ends game

Conversion to BBC model A

Delete lines 10, 230

The following lines should read:

```
320 MODE 5:VDU19.0,4,000,VDU23,8202,0,0,0:VDU5
400 FOR N= 1 TO20 X=RND(1240):Y=RND(700):200
410 Z=RND(2)+1:GCOL1,Z:IF Z=2 THEN MOVE X,Y:PRINTCHR$246
420 NEXT MOVE 0,0
520 GCOL0,3:MOVE N-2,250 DRAW N+75,250
750 IF POINT(CA+25,CB-70) 3 THEN 760 ELSE 780
850 MOVE CA,CB:GCOL0,3:PRINT CHR$242:MOVE CA,CB-32:PRINT CHR$243
```

COSMIC LANDER FUEL



Continued on page 28

SUPERCODE

—for 16K and 48K Spectrum

100+ ROUTINES

This is a superior machine code tool with one hundred machine code routines that are relocatable for use in your own BASIC and/or machine code programs. The combined user friendly BASIC program, 48K Spectrum only, gives easy access to all routines: ● Index of routines ● Call up details of each routine including all information required to tailor the routine to your needs ● Demonstration of how the routine works under software control, the demonstration is repeatable ● Save and verify individual routines ● Comprehensive user guide.

1	Block Memory Insert	24	Self P. Character Set	47	Wait Key
2	Block Memory Delete	25	Memory Assembler	48	Strings to Upper Case
3	CHR\$ to Int	26	Line Renumber	49	Strings to Lower Case
4	CHR\$ to Int	27	Line to Byte Sound Gen	50	Program to Upper Case
5	Super Keyboard	28	User Byte Sound Gen	51	Program to Lower Case
6	Byte to CHR\$	29	User Byte Sound Gen	52	Compu\$
7	Hex to Int	30	Multi-Byte Simulator	53	Compu\$
8	Hex to Int	31	Screen Fill	54	Space Saver
9	Alpha to Character	32	Screen Store	55	Screen Overprint
10	On Screen	33	Screen Exchange	56	Screen Invert
11	On Screen	34	Protect Program	57	Clear All
12	Free Space	35	Block Copy	58	Line Change
13	Free Space	36	Contract	59	Page Change
14	Free Space	37	Expand	60	Flash On
15	Free Space	38	Expand Mem	61	Flash On
16	Free Space	39	Append	62	Flash On
17	Free Space	40	Count Program	63	Flash On
18	Free Space	41	Tap Reader Reader	64	Screen Print
19	Free Space	42	Address	65	Random Number Generator
20	Free Space	43	Character Board		
21	Free Space	44	Remove Columns		
22	Free Space	45	Display Memory		
23	Free Space	46	Free Space		

ROUTINES 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65

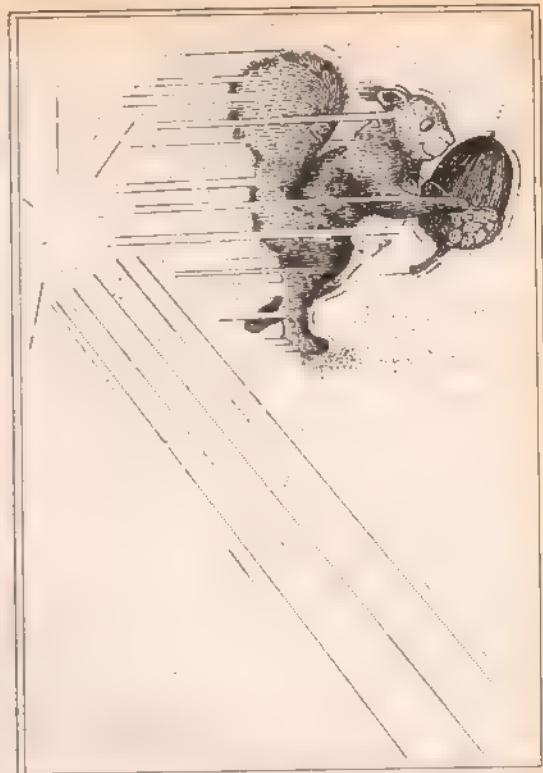
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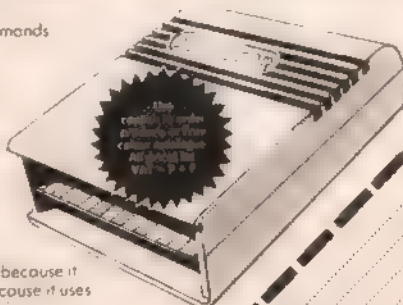
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SS076 FORTH 64 - £29.95 - Audiogenic FORTH is very fast because it compiles right down to machine code, and very compact because it uses special screen compression routines. Audiogenic FORTH contains a dictionary of over 200 FORTH words, but the great thing about FORTH is that you can define your own commands! Audiogenic FORTH gives you full error messages (instead of codes), a full scrolling screen editor, and a comprehensive manual.

VP076 FORTH VIC - £24.95 - As above, but includes special VIC colour and sound commands. This version must be used in a motherboard with 8K+ expansion.

VP076/M FORTH VIC (with memory) - £39.95 - As VP076, but includes 3K expansion built-in so that you don't need a motherboard and expansion.



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10REM "COSMIC LANDER BY Michael Pearce"
20REM "PROGRAMMED ON THE BBC MODEL A
32K OS. 1.2 IN APPROX 26K"
30MODE7:FX15,0
40PRINTCHR#141;"COSMIC LANDER":PRINTC
HR#141;"COSMIC LANDER"
50PRINTCHR#136;"BY Michael Pearce"
60PRINT"MISSION TO LAND TO YOUR SPAC
E CRAFT ON ASET UP PRESSURE PAD"
70PRINT"FUEL IS LOW AND WHEN RAPPID
PIPS SOUND IT IS AT ITS MINIMIUM"
80PRINT"THE MOON HAS A HEAVY CROSS W
IND WHICH DRIFTS YOUR "
90PRINT"SHIP ACROSS THE SCREEN"
95PRINT"ALSO BEWARE OF FLOATING STARS"
100PRINT"LAND CAREFULLY ANY MOVEMENT
ON A"
110PRINT"PRESSURE PAD MIGHT LEAD TO AN
EXPLOSION"
120PRINT"KEYS...."
130PRINT"Z....LEFT"
140PRINT"C....RIGHT"
150PRINT"M...THRUST"
160PRINT"FUEL BONUS AFTER EVERY LANDI
NG"
170REPEAT:READF,D:IF F=99 GOTO230
180IFF=0SOUND1,0,0,0 ELSE SOUND1,-10,F,D
190SOUND1,0,0,1
200UNTIL 0
210DATA56,4,80,24,88,24,96,32,0,4,96,4,
100,16,100,0,96,12,80,4,96,8,88,32
220DATA99,0
230PRINTCHR#136;"Any key to start":A=
GET
240ENVELOPE2,16,16,1,1,200,0,0,126,0,0,
-126,80,80
250ENVELOPE5,6,2,20,16,16,0,0,126,0,0,
-126,126,126
260ENVELOPE1,1,1,1,1,5,10,60,80,-1,0,0,
50,0
270VDU23,240,0,0,28,28,62,62,62,62:VDU
33,241,62,62,62,127,127,127,93,93
280VDU23,242,0,16,16,16,16,68,56,254:V
DU23,243,56,68,16,16,16,16,0,0
290VDU23,244,255,255,255,255,255,255,2
55,255:VDU23,245,24,24,24,24,0,0,0,0,
65
300VDU23,246,0,0,28,54,28,0,0,0,0,0
310SN=3:SC=0:W=3:AS=""
320MODE2:VDU19,0,4,0,0,0:VDU23,0202:0:
0:0:VDU5
330CA=200:CB=800:DRIF=RND(W)-(W/2):DEC
=-10:CAR=0:FUEL=17
340CLS:VDU5
350PROCacreen
360PROCRAFT:PROCMOVEING:PROCINST:PROCP
OS
370GOTO360:GOTO330
380DEFFPROCacreen
390GCOL0,7:MOVE0,0:DRAW0,900:DRAW1279,
900:DRAW1279,0:DRAW0,0
400FORN=1TO70:X=RND(1240):Y=RND(700)+2
00
410Z=RND(11)+1:GCOL1,Z:IFZ=2THENMOVEX,
Y:PRINTCHR#246
420MOVEX,Y:PLOT 69,X,Y:NEXT:MOVE0,0
430FORC=1TO3:FORN=1TO1700STEP100
440GCOL0,C:MOVE500,0
450PLOT85,N,RND(200-C*30)+200-C*70:NEXT
460MOVE0,0:PLOT85,1280,0:MOVE0,0:IFC=1
THEN480ELSENEXT
470ENDPROC
480FORN=10TO1200
490IFPOINT(N,250)=1ANDPOINT(N+2,250)=0
ANDPOINT(N+75,250)=0THEN510ELSENEXT
500GOTO540
510MOVEN-2,250:MOVEV+65,250:GCOL0,1:PL
OT85,N+65,100
520GCOL0,6:MOVEV-2,250:DRAWN+75,250
530MOVEV-2,247:DRAWN+75,247:NEXT
540GCOL0,3:MOVE10,1005:PRINT"COSMIC LA
NDER"
550MOVE10,955:PRINT"FUEL":MOVE0,0
560NEXT
570DEFFPROCRAFT
580GCOL0,5
590MOVECA,CA:PRINTCHR#(240):MOVECA,CB-
32:PRINTCHR#(241)
600GCOL0,3:MOVECA,CB-32:PRINTCHR#(245)
610FX15,0
620A=INKEY$(20)
630IFAB="Z"THENCAB=CAB-3:SOUND0,1,4,5
640IFAB="C"THENCAB=CAB+3:SOUND0,1,4,5
650IFAB="M"THENDEC=DEC+3:FUEL=FUEL-1:S
OUND0,-2,4,10
660IFAB<>"":THE TIME=0:REPEATUNTILTIME=
20
670IFAB="":THENDEC=DEC-1:CAB=CAB+DRIF
680ENDPROC
690DEFFPROCMOVEING
700GCOL0,0
710MOVECA,CB:PRINTCHR#240:MOVECA,CB-32
:PRINTCHR#241
720CA=CA+CAB:CB=CB+DEC
730ENDPROC
740DEFFPROCPOS
750IFPOINT(CA+25,CB-70)=6THEN760ELSE780
760IFCAB<6ANDDEC>-6THEN770ELSEPROCCRAH
770IFDEC<10ANDDEC>-10THENPROCLAND ELSE
PROCCRAH
780IFPOINT(CA+25,CB-70)=10RPOINT(CA+20
,CB-60)=2THENPROCCRAH
790IFCA>1200THENPROCCRAH
800IFCA<10THENPROCCRAH
810IFCB>800THENPROCCRAH
820IFFUEL<1THENPROCCRAH
830ENDPROC
840DEFFPROCRAH
850MOVECA,CB:GCOL0,12:PRINTCHR#242:MOV
ECA,CB-32:PRINTCHR#243
860SOUND0,5,4,20:SN=SN-1
870VDU4:PRINTTAB(2,10);"FUEL BONUS CON
E":PRINTTAB(3,12);"CRAFTS LEFT":JSM
880TIME=0:REPEATUNTILTIME=700
890IFSN=0THENPROCEND
900GOTO330
910DEFFPROCLAND
920GCOL0,14:MOVECA,CB:PRINTCHR#240:MOV
ECA,CB-32:PRINTCHR#241
930GCOL0,12:MOVECA,CB-32:PRINTCHR#245
935FX21,4
940SOUND1,2,0,40:VDU4:PRINTTAB(4,10);"
FUEL BONUS":FUEL
950TIME=0:REPEATUNTILTIME=700:SC=SC+20
+FUEL:W=W+2:GOTO330
960DEFFPROCINST
970VDU4:FORN=5TOFUEL:COLOUR7:PRINTTAB(
N,2):CHR#244:NEXT
980PRINTTAB(N+1,2);" "
990IFFUEL<5THENSOUND2,-10,150,2
1000VDU5:ENDPROC
1010DEFFPROCEND
1020VDU4:PRINTTAB(1,10);" END OF GAME
1030PRINTTAB(3,12);" SCORE ",SC;" "
1040PRINTTAB(1,14);"KEY TO PLAY AGAIN"
1050FX15,0
1060A=GET:RUN

```


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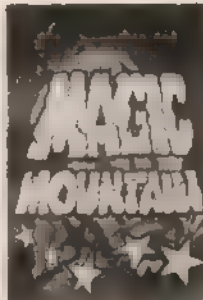
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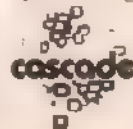
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Unrestricted access

Bernice Hennessy explains how to obtain machine code access to Basic functions

In his article "A Routine Matter" (PCW 120-26 October), Peter Whittaker describes a very useful technique for calling Basic Rom routines from a machine code program. In a similar manner, you can access the functions of Basic and also any additional Basic commands provided, for example by disc operating systems or some hardware add-on modules.

To do this, you need to know that the Basic system uses a list of reserved commands and functions, together with their corresponding addresses. During Basic initialisation, pointers to these are set up in Ram as follows:

\$120 Number of normal reserved words

\$121 Address of normal reserved words list
\$123 Address of statement dispatch table
\$125 Number of function reserved words
\$126 Address of function reserved words list
\$128 Address of function dispatch table

Listings 1 and 1a are generalisations of Peter Whittaker's program which display both normal reserved words and Basic functions. You will see that the statement dispatch table only contains Exec addresses for tokens up to 186 Renum, because later tokens are always used in conjunction with an earlier one. Functions are represented by a pair of tokens, the first always being \$FF.

The lists of reserved words and the addresses of the subroutines to implement

them are normally stored in the Basic Rom. The way in which extra commands are added to Basic (or existing commands given new meanings) is to move the reserved word list and dispatch table (ie, list of addresses) into either protected Ram or the cartridge Rom area. It is then possible to redefine commands and their meanings as required. Listing 2 shows an example of this where the function reserved word list and function dispatch table have been moved into Ram and the following modifications made:

The INT and MEM functions no longer exist. Token 255 129 has been redefined as QNT and points to \$BC31 (the old MEM routine). Token 255 155 has been redefined as % and points to \$7CE5 in Ram where a machine code routine gives the function its meaning.

Using this technique, it is possible to redefine Basic words at will (although you change the meaning of existing words at your peril!) and to define meanings for extra Basic commands which you can add to your Dragon's repertoire.

5 REM DRAGON—BASIC TOKENS ■ B.HENNESSY

■ PRINT#-2

20 A=127:B=PEEK(289)*256+PEEK(290):C=PEEK(291)*256+PEEK(292):
D=127+PEEK(288)

30 PRINT#-2,PEEK(288);"NORMAL RESERVED WORDS — LIST BEGINS
AT";B;" — ADDRESSES BEGIN AT";C

35 T\$="":B=B-1

40 GOSUB 200

50 PRINT#-2

■ A=127:B=PEEK(294)*256+PEEK(295):C=PEEK(296)*256+PEEK(297):
D=127+PEEK(293)

70 PRINT#-2,PEEK(293);"FUNCTION RESERVED WORDS — LIST BEGINS

AT";B;" — ADDRESSES BEGIN AT";C

75 T\$="255":B=B-1

80 GOSUB 200

90 STOP

200 PRINT#-2,"TOKEN";TAB(20)"BASIC";TAB(40)"EXEC ADDRESS"

205 PRINT#-2,TAB(41);"%DEC. HEX."

210 A=A+1:IF A=D THEN RETURN ELSE PRINT#-2,T\$;A;TAB(20)" ";

220 B=B+1:IF PEEK(B*128) THEN PRINT #-2,CHR\$(PEEK(B));

GOTO 220 ELSE PRINT#-2,CHR\$(PEEK(B)-128);

230 C=PEEK(C)*256+PEEK(C+1):C=C+2:PRINT#-2,TAB(39)C;" "
;HEX\$(C):GOTO 210

240 END

Fig 1

34 FUNCTION WORDS — LIST BEGINS AT 32450 — ADDRESSES BEGIN AT 32583

TOKEN	BASIC	EXEC ADDRESS	DEC	HEX					
255 128	SGN	37925	9425	255 145	CHRS	36386	8DD2		
255 129	ONT	35885	8C31	255 146	EOF	47104	8B00		
255 130	ABS	37950	943E	255 147	JOYSTK	47885	8B80		
255 131	POS	39646	9ADE	255 148	FIX	39254	9956		
255 132	RND	38770	9772	255 149	HEX%	40974	A00E		
255 133	SGR	38551	9697	255 150	LEFT%	36337	8DF1		
255 134	LOG	37436	923C	255 151	RIGHT%	36366	8E0E		
255 135	EXP	38675	9713	255 152	MID%	36373	8E15		
255 136	SIN	38865	97D1	255 153	POINT	47684	BA44		
255 137	COS	38859	97C9	255 154	INKEY%	46998	8796		
255 138	TAN	38934	9816	255 155	%	31973	7CE5		
255 139	ATN	39031	9077	255 156	VARPTR	39665	9AF4		
255 140	PEEK	36582	8E96	255 157	INSTR	39860	98B4		
255 141	LEN	36295	8DC7	255 158	TIMER	40281	9059		
255 142	STR%	35904	8C40	255 159	PPPOINT	42695	A6C7		
255 143	VAL	36444	8E5C	255 160	STRINGS	39812	98B4		
255 144	ASC	36326	8DE6	255 161	USR	40221	9D10		

Fig 2

Continued on page 33

76 NORMAL RESERVED WORDS — LIST BEGINS AT 32819 — ADDRESSES BEGIN AT

TOKEN	BASIC	EXEC DEC.	ADDRESS HEX.
128	FOR	33864	8448
129	GO	34233	8589
130	REM	34326	8616
131		34326	8616
132	ELSE	34326	8616
133	IF	34375	8647
134	DATA	34323	8613
135	PRINT	36925	9030
136		34421	8675
137	INPUT	34683	8728
138	END	34898	8532
139	NEXT	34857	8829
140	DIM	35467	8A08
141	READ	34679	8777
142	LET	34492	868C
143	RUN	34213	85A5
144	RESTORE	34868	8514
145	RETURN	34291	85F3
146	STOP	34105	8539
147	POKE	36589	8E90
148	CONT	34144	8568
149	LIST	36522	8EAA
150	CLEAR	34161	8571
151	NEW	33813	8415
152	DEF	40065	9C81
153	CLOAD	46884	86D4
154	CSAVE	46722	8682
155	OPEN	47144	8828
156	CLOSE	46968	864C
157	LLIST	36516	8EAA
158	SET	47578	89D2
159	RESET	47619	8A03
160	CLS	47711	8A8F
161	MOTOR	47489	8861
162	SOUND	47770	8A9A
163	AUDIO	47839	8ADF
164	EXEC	46986	8770
165	SKIP	47134	881E
166	DEL	48289	9061
167	EDIT	39289	9885

34 FUNCTION RESERVED WORDS — LIST BEGINS AT 33225 — ADDRESSES BEGIN AT 33360

TOKEN	BASIC	EXEC DEC.	ADDRESS HEX.
39289		9885	
39641		9AD9	
39642		9ADA	
42825		A749	
43200		ABCO	
42735		AGEF	
42739		AGE3	
43518		AGEF	
43545		AA19	
43220		ABD4	
45624		8238	
44167		AC87	
43768		AAFD	
43763		AAF3	
45137		B051	
43710		AA8E	
43439		ABAF	
44477		AD8D	
41033		AD49	
48442		9D8F	
21319		5347	
52809		CE49	
20180		4E04	
16708		4142	
54098		D350	
20435		4FD3	
21078		524E	
58259		C453	
28846		51D2	
51013		4C4F	
19535		4745	
22736		5808	
21321		5349	
52883		CE43	
20435		4FD3	
21589		5441	
52801		CE41	
21710		54CE	
28549		5045	

Fig 1a

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A registered connection

Pete Gerrard takes a look at some of the registers connected with the Sid chip

Last week I gave you some of the fundamental information regarding the use of the 6581 Sid chip in your Commodore 64.

While space precludes an in-depth look at everything connected with the chip, this week we're going to take a detailed look at just some of the more interesting registers, starting with register 54276.

At this point it would be useful to dig out last week's copy, and have the Sid memory map in front of you.

Control Register

This is the most important register of them all, containing eight control bits with the following functions:

Gate — Bit 0

This controls the envelope generator for voice 1, and when this bit is set to a '1' the envelope generator is triggered and the Attack/Decay/Sustain (or ADS) cycle is begun.

When this bit is reset to a zero, then the release part of the cycle begins.

This envelope generator controls the amplitude of voice 1 as it appears at the audio output, and must therefore be triggered in order for the selected output of voice 1 to be audible.

Sync — Bit 1

When set to a '1' this synchronizes the fundamental frequency of voice 1 with the fundamental frequency of voice 3, producing what are known as 'hard sync' effects.

Varying the frequency of voice 1 with respect to voice 3 produces a wide range of complex harmonic structures from voice 1 at the frequency of voice 3.

In order for this to take place, obviously voice 3 must be set to some frequency or other, preferably lower than that of voice 1, but naturally higher than zero. Nothing else connected with voice 3 has any effect on Sync.

Ring Mod — Bit 2

When set to a '1' this bit replaces the triangle waveform of voice 1 with a ring modulation combination of voices 1 and 3; obviously, one must previously have selected the waveform of voice 1 to be a triangle one!

Varying the frequency of voice 1 with respect to voice 3 produces a wide range of non-harmonic overtone structures. Again, nothing else connected with voice 3 has any effect on Ring Mod.

Test — Bit 3

This bit, when set to a '1', resets and holds voice 1 at zero, until the bit is cleared.

The noise waveform of voice 1 is also reset, and if a pulse wave has been selected this is held at a DC level.

Triangle — Bit 4

When this is set to a '1', the triangle waveform is selected for voice 1. This is low in harmonics, and thus produces a mellow, reed-like note.

Sawtooth — Bit 5

When this is set to a '1', the sawtooth waveform is selected for voice 1. This is rich in harmonics, and thus produces a brassy, trumpet-like note.

Pulse — Bit 6

When this is set to a '1' the pulse waveform is selected for voice 1. The harmonic content of this waveform can be varied by altering the pulse width registers, producing a wide variety of different musical (and not so musical) sounds.

Sweeping through the pulse widths can produce some dynamic effects, and add a sense of motion to the sound. Also worthy of experiment is a rapid altering of pulse widths.

Noise — Bit 7

When set to a '1', the noise waveform is selected for voice 1. This is a totally random signal which changes at the frequency of voice 1, and thus is of most use in generating purely sound 'effects', like missiles taking off, engines revving, or explosions.

One of the above waveforms must be selected in order for voice 1 to produce any audible sound, although that sound can be turned off without un-selecting a waveform, as the voice 1 the end is a function of the envelope generator only.

You cannot add more than one waveform together to produce something totally different from the above four, although you're welcome to try!

Filtering techniques

This concerns memory locations 54293 and 54294, known as Freq Lo/Freq Hi — registers \$15 and \$16.

As bits 3 to 7 of register \$15 are not used, these two combine together to form an 11-bit number which linearly controls the cut-off, or centre frequency of the programmable filter. The approximate cut-off frequency is obtained from:

$$FC_{out} = (1.66E - 8 + FC_n \times 1.28E - 8) \text{ Hz}$$

where FC_n is the 11-bit number in the above two registers and C is the value of the two filter capacitors connected to pins 1 to 4, or in our case 2200 picoFarads.

This gives an approximate filter range of 30 Hz to 12 KHz, according to:

$$FC_{out} = (30 + FC_n \times 5.8) \text{ Hz}$$

Res/Filter — Register \$17 (54295)

Bits 4 to 7 of this register control the

resonance of the filter, where resonance emphasises components of the frequency the cut-off frequency of the filter, thus causing a sharper sound.

There are 16 resonance settings, ranging linearly from no resonance, when this is set to zero, or maximum resonance, when it is set to 15.

Bits 0 to 3 determine which signals will be routed through the filter:

Bit 0: When this is set to zero, voice 1 appears directly at the audio output, and there is no filtering effect. When set to 1, voice 1 is processed through the filter, and the harmonic content of voice 1 is altered according to the selected filter parameters.

Bit 1: Ditto for voice 2.

Bit 2: Ditto for voice 3.

Bit 3: Ditto for external audio input on pin 26.

Mode/Vol — Register \$18 (54296)

Usually referred to as the master volume control, this actually does a whole lot more.

Bits 0 to 3 are the actual volume settings, and allow you to select an overall volume ranging from 0 (silence) to 15 (maximum).

Bits 4 to 7 select various filter modes and output options:

Bit 4: When set to a '1', the low pass output of the filter is selected and sent to the audio output. For a given filter input signal, all components of the frequency below the filter cut-off are passed through unaltered, whilst all those above the cut-off are attenuated at a rate of 12 decibels per octave.

Bit 5: As above for band pass output, but attenuation above and below the cut-off is at a rate of 6 decibels per octave.

Bit 6: As above for high pass output, and attenuation below the cut-off is back to 12 decibels per octave.

Bit 7: When this is set to '1' the output of voice 3 is disconnected from the direct audio path, so setting voice 3 to bypass the filter and setting 3 OFF to a '1' stops voice 3 from reaching the audio output. Thus voice 3 can be used for modulation purposes without any extraneous noises coming out.

These filter modes are additive, in that one can combine a number of different modes at the same time. Playing with, and understanding, these frequency alterations is the key to getting the most out of the 6581.

I have not given you any concrete examples here, so you'll just have to try it down and do it for yourself. But, armed with the above information about how the important registers can be altered for filtering, synchronisation, and other techniques, the 6581 Sid chip should begin to reveal just a few of its secrets to you.

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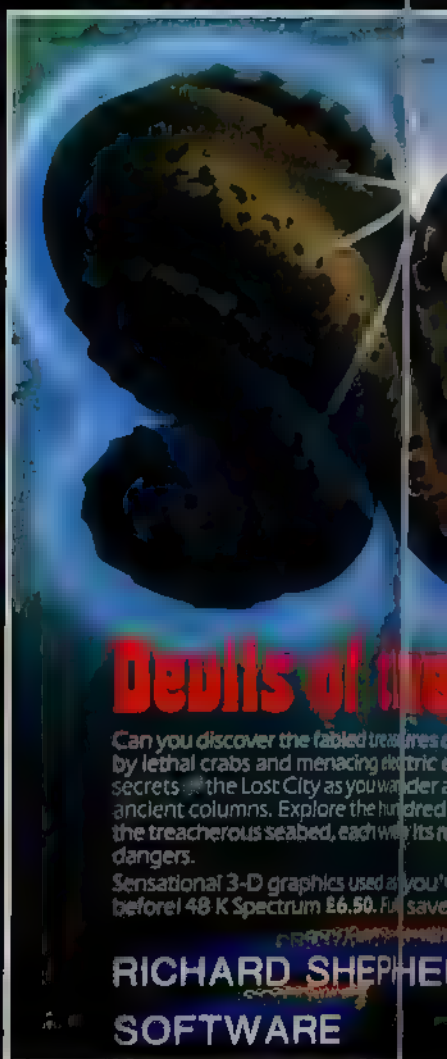
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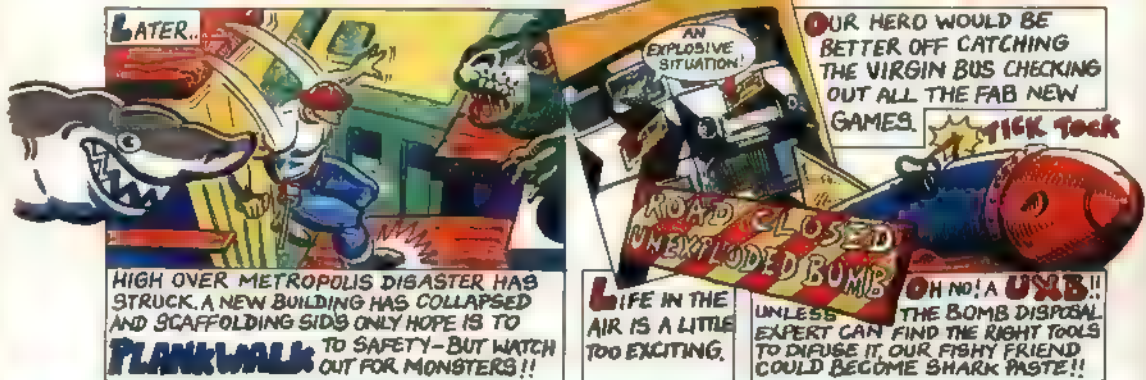
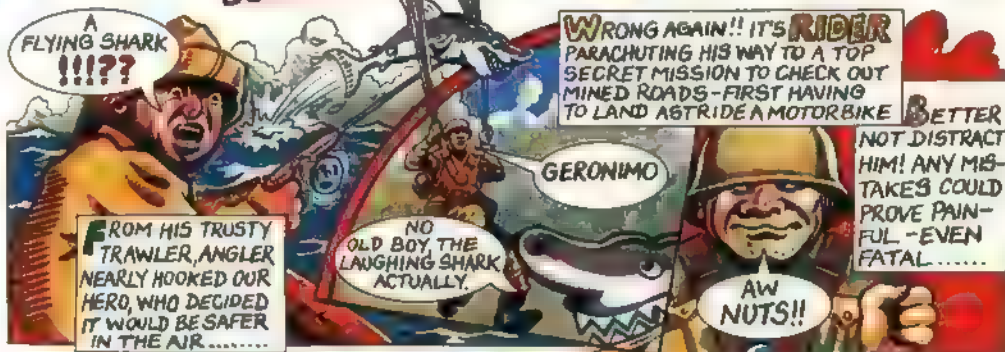
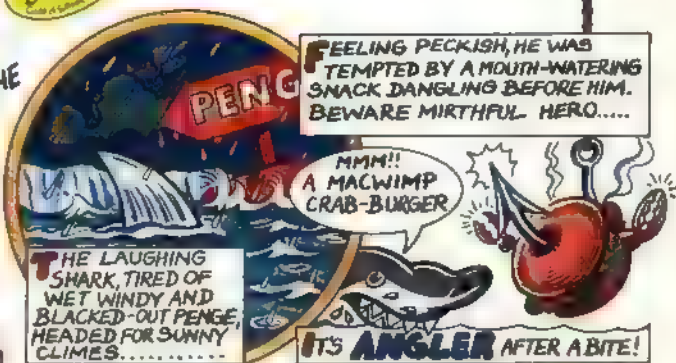
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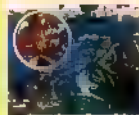
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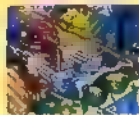
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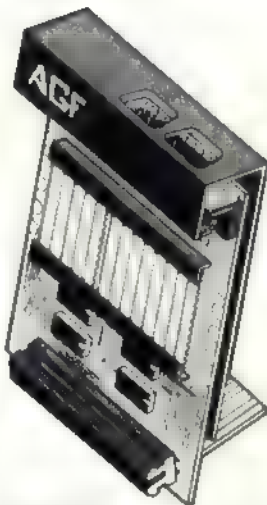
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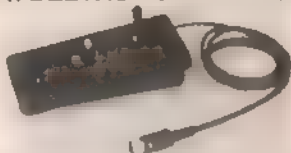
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A crowded market

Andrew Pennell takes his Sord in both hands and enters the cut and thrust world of the under-£200 computer market

The CGL M5 is yet another contender in the crowded sub-£200 computer market. It is manufactured by Sord in Japan and sold in this country by CGL, known for their *Game & Match* toys.

The standard M5 machine costs £149.95, and comes with 20K Ram and 16K Rom. This is not as attractive as it first seems as 16K of the Ram is dedicated to the video display, leaving only 4K for the user. Of the Rom, 8K is contained in the machine as the operating system, while a further 8K is supplied in the Basic-I plug-in cartridge. Supplying the main language on a detachable cartridge is a very good idea, as it can be changed or upgraded. Something which may be rather necessary on the M5.

The main unit is little larger than the Spectrum, though rather heavier. It is in pleasant two-tone colours, with a detachable flap that occupies the rear third of the top. The flap has to be removed when the machine is in use, as it covers the cartridge slot. The cartridges themselves are exactly the same size as cassette boxes, and they fitted into my cassette rack perfectly. The keyboard is one of the popular (with manufacturers anyway) moving-rubber key types, but is much nicer to type on than the Spectrum. Each key is shaped as a square with a corner removed, for some inexplicable reason, and there are even 55 keys, removing the need for the complicated shifts required on the Spectrum's 40 keys. Unfortunately there is no space bar, and the space key is just under the *Return* key, which is not really a good place for it. It also has two *Shift* keys, a *Ctrl* key, a *Func* key (for single-key entry) and a *Reset* key, which sensibly also requires *Ctrl* to be pressed. Each key has the main symbol in white, any keywords in yellow, and graphic symbols in blue. As the keys themselves are also blue, it makes the graphics all but invisible under

concealed under a considerable weight of metal shielding which really does cut down on radio interference — Sinclair please note. Among the components are the Z80A microprocessor, the Texas 9929 video chip, a Z80 CTC timer chip, a 76489 sound chip, and an 8K Rom. The CGL M5 uses the same video chip as that in the now defunct TI 99/4A, the new Memotech MTX500 (see *Popular Computing Weekly*, November 17), and the forthcoming MSX-standard series machines. The sound chip is the same as that used by the BBC micro and the Memotech.

Because of its apparent similarities with the Memotech, I was very interested in the display quality on the M5. The machine initialises to white letters on a black background, and appears twice on the tv dial — there was no discernible difference between the two. Unlike the Memotech, the characters were visible on the screen, but it was similar in the way the picture distorts 'CinemaScope' fashion, so that circles are oval in shape. Colour stability was better than the Memotech, and the sound quality very much better.

The M5 is supplied with the Basic-I Rom cartridge which CGL say is Easy BASIC for Beginners. I can only presume that the I in the name means in fact Basic for Idiots!

The first thing I did with the computer was to type in a three-line program to print the character set and it would not run. After listing it I found that the word *Let* had been inserted before each statement. After examining the manual I discovered that if a space is not entered after each line number then *Let* is inserted — it is claimed that this is done so that you do not have to type *Let*, but it seems ridiculous to me. Spaces are also required to separate commands, else they are not accepted. Normally commands have to be typed in letter by letter, but if the *Func* key is held down with

characters can be accessed direct from the keyboard, though the manual has to be referred to as half the legends are missing and the other half are illegible due to the colour clash of the keys and keyboard already mentioned. Control codes can also be entered in listings, by holding *Shift*, *Ctrl* and the appropriate key, and they get listed as inverse characters. The codes are important since they control the different screen modes.

The Basic itself is rather unusual in that it is integer-only. This means that no decimals are allowed, and numbers are limited to the range ± 32767 . The last micro I can remember that was integer-only was the Acorn Atom some years ago. After thinking about it though, for a beginner, integer-only is probably sufficient. The best part of Basic-I is its speed — it is incredibly fast. Simple tests showed it to be at least four times faster than the Spectrum, and marginally faster than the BBC! Its speed is obviously due to the integer limitation. The commands are fairly standard, with some additions for graphics.

The M5 has four graphics modes. The simplest is Text, which is 40×24 characters in two colours. Graphics Mode 1 has a resolution of 256×192 pixels, but only a maximum of 256 characters can be displayed, each with a foreground and background colour chosen from a palette of 16 colours. Graphics Mode 2, the most useful, has the same resolution, but the screen is fully bit-mapped in colour giving a colour resolution of 64×192 . Finally, multi-colour mode, in which each pixel can be any of 16 colours, has a resolution of only 64×48 and is really not at all useful.

The best feature of the Texas 9929 chip, and thus the M5, is its ability to display and control large graphics shapes — Sprites. All of the above modes, except Text, can support up to 32 Sprites each of size up to 32×32 pixels which are independent of the graphics screen, and can be one of 16 colours.

Basic-I has only a few commands for accessing the graphics, and none are explained in detail or at all clearly in the manual. To switch between graphic modes, certain control codes have to be printed, and this is certain to confuse the beginner. If for some reason an error occurs in some of the modes, the error message will be invisible, and the computer appears not to be working. This is particularly a problem in Multi-colour or Graphics 2 modes, as characters are not printed sensibly in either. The manual unwisely advises that the power be removed if the screen displays meaningless characters, but this is simply not so. Eventually, after pressing complicated *Ctrl* sequences, control can be regained.

Once in a particular graphic mode there are a handful of commands to define the shape, colour, size and position of the Sprites, but their use is poorly explained in the manual's Appendix. There are no



normal light.

Along the back of the case are the power and cassette sockets, a Centronics printer socket, two joystick sockets, tv output, and video and audio outputs. Regrettably, the joystick sockets are non-standard, so only the CGL 'joypads' will fit. This is a problem since they are not very good.

The power supply is a huge black slab that has to sit next to the main unit because of its short lead — aesthetically pleasing it is not, but, thankfully, it is silent.

Inside the case there is only one circuit board containing the electronics. It is well

certain letters a whole keyword is generated. This single-keyword entry is optional but, again, if you don't press *Space* after each keyword the line will not run.

Lines are edited using a fairly standard screen editor, using the cursor keys in conjunction with *Ctrl*. Insert mode can be entered with *Ctrl P*, and left with *Ctrl O*. Delete works — in the opposite way to the norm — removing the character to the right of the cursor — but this seems to be getting more popular and one soon gets used to it. Program lines can be entered in either upper or lower-case and are listed in upper-case. A wide range of graphics

commands to plot points or draw lines, or to use the sound chip.

This would not be a great problem if CGL provided sufficient technical information to allow access by *Pokes*, *VPokes* (for the video Ram) and *Outs*, like Commodore do, but no mention is made. I was most unimpressed with the CGL M5 until I typed in a demonstration program from the back of the manual. It produced a rather impressive game in colour with Sprites and background characters. The listing was full of *Pokes* and other such commands, but no explanation of them was given. It also showed how to use the sound chip using an *Out* instruction but, again, no details

For *Next* loops. There is a limitation, not mentioned in the manual — only four Sprites can be on a given horizontal line. That information I discovered in the Memotech manual. The *Joint* statement allows Sprites to be joined together to make bigger shapes. To detect collisions between Sprites, there is a command *On Coinc Gosub xxx*, and if any two Sprites touch each other then routine *xxx* is executed. These graphic commands make it simple to write complicated games and they run fast, too.

As well as the extra graphics commands, Basic-G also supports the sound chip. On the M5 the sound output is through the tv speaker and it is nice and

clear. The commands for using it are *Play*, for music, and *Sg*, for sound effects. The M5 has three tone channels and one noise channel — easily used Basic-G. The *Play* command is used in a similar way to that on the Dragon 32, but can address all three channels. It is not just the note that can be controlled. So can the octave, duration, volume, tempo and envelope. The control commands are all clearly ex-

plained, even to musical ignoramuses like myself. The *Sg* command can also be used to control the tone generators, but that requires more work.

To aid easy programming, there are several levels of 'interrupts'. Normally these are only available on other machines via machine-code. An interrupt is an occurrence that stops normal program flow for a while, while it does something else; when the extra routine has finished the normal program flow is resumed.

On the M5 there are six types of interrupts controllable from Basic-G. On *Coinc Gosub* has already been mentioned. The others are: *On Event Gosub* and *On Alarm Gosub*, which trigger on certain timed occurrences; *On Key Gosub*, used when a key is pressed; *On Joy Gosub*, when a joystick is moved; and *On Error Gosub*, when any error occurs. This type of interrupt management is a brilliant idea, and deserves to be duplicated on the next generation of home micros.

Just before writing this review, I received the M5 Technical Manual, which I hoped would cover all the omissions from the Basic manuals. Unfortunately 'Technical Manual' is not really accurate — most of it is just the Appendix from the Basic-G manual. There are a couple of pages devoted to I/O locations, a vague memory map and a circuit diagram, but actual details of the graphics and sound chips are almost non-existent.

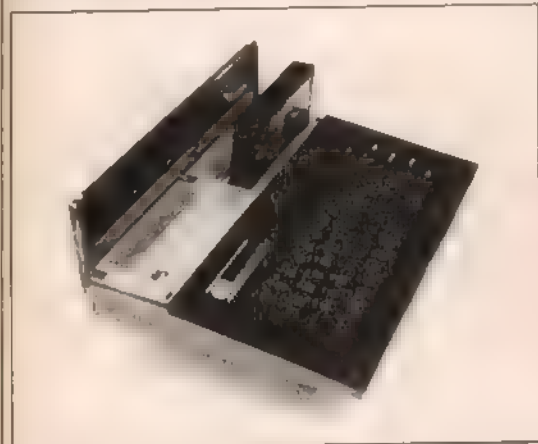
In fact, M5 owners who want to know more should try and get a Memotech manual, as it contains all they should need. There is little mention of machine-code in any M5 document, and information is particularly lacking on the system variables and where to put the code in memory. For independent support a machine needs to have certain technical information available, as Texas found to their cost, and CGL don't seem able to supply nearly enough.

The standard M5 machine with Basic-I and 4K user-Ram seems expensive at £150. I thought only Commodore could get away with omitting the extra commands to use machines (eg, the Commodore 64 and Simons' Basic), but CGL obviously seem to think that they can too.

There is a paragraph in the technical manual that says: 'Basic-I is not designed to bring out all the M5 capabilities. The built-in synthesiser requires much time to produce sounds and the fine colour graphics are difficult to produce on the screen.' I wholeheartedly agree. No such statement appears in CGL's adverts though. With Basic-G and 8K user-Ram it should really be compared with the 16K Spectrum, but costs £185, making the CGL less attractive. However, Basic-G is a brilliant games-writing language (except for the inexcusable lack of floating-point numbers), even though writing similar programs from machine-code is almost impossible with the current level of technical data.

There is supposed to be a 32K Ram pack coming shortly. If CGL were to sell the 32K Ram pack together with Basic-G and the M5 Console at a discount it could make an attractive package.

My feeling is that there are already too many machines competing for the sub-£200 market. CGL will have to change their current tactics if they wish to start the long-heralded Japanese invasion by supplying Basic-G as standard. And that's just for starters. Independent support will be slow in coming without more technical information being easily available.



were given. At this stage I realised the CGL had a lot of potential, but I could not get to it.

Then I managed to get hold of a copy of the Basic-G cartridge.

Basic-G, £34.95, is a cartridge that comes in a huge plastic box, with foam padding to fill it, and a massive 280-page manual. Noticeably heavier than Basic-I, it contains 16K of Rom and an extra 4K of Ram. On the front of the manual are the words 'Easy Basic for Games' and, after examining the contents, it certainly seemed like it.

As well as the Basic-I commands, Basic-G adds over 100 new ones, mainly for graphics. The graphics modes (except the useless Multi-colour mode) are very well supported, with easy colour commands, pixel plots, line drawings, circles, ovals and even polygons. There is a powerful *Paint* command which is extremely fast and fills in any irregular shape with solid colour. The commands *Bar* and *Box* are given for drawing line and solid rectangles. For controlling the Sprites there are a wealth of commands, the most impressive of which is *Move*: it allows movement to a given point, at a given speed, or movement in a given direction, at a given speed. A maximum of twelve Sprites can be moving together, automatically, at one time, though others can be moved using

plained, even to musical ignoramuses like myself. The *Sg* command can also be used to control the tone generators, but that requires more work.

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On the back of the M5 is a socket for a printer cable of the Centronics type. When a printer is connected both listings and text are available by *LList* and *LPrint* commands. Also available is the *PCopy* command which copies the hi-res screen to an attached printer, using parameters set up with the *PMode* command. From what I could see, it should work with any dot-

OPEN FORUM

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Frequency

on Spectrum

This program draws frequency graphs of the sound being received at the ear socket.

First enter the small basic program and save it using the line:

Save "Sound" Line 5

Now the computer then enter and Run the hex loader program. Use this program to enter the 93 bytes of hex code which constitutes the main program. The hex is the second column of figures starting 110501. When all the code has been entered input "STOP" to stop the program then save the machine code using the line:

Save "Sound" Code 65000,100. Now the computer then rewind the tape and

load the basic program. When loaded it will automatically load the machine code and then stop.

The easiest way to use the program is to first record the sound you want analysed onto tape. Run the program and after the tone the computer waits for a signal at the ear socket. Connect the tape recorder as for loading, and play. The computer will store values corresponding to the frequency at location 60000 to 60254.

The program will then draw a simple time versus frequency graph of the values. Press enter to run the program again. Owners of Casio VL-Tones can connect the instrument directly to the ear socket for analysing the waveforms produced by the instruments *Adsr* function.

```

      ORG 65000
      LOAD 65000

FDE0 110501 LD DE,261
FDE0 216605 LD HL,1636
FDE0 C0B503 CALL 040
FDF1 0BFE L1: IN 0,1254
FDF3 0BFE CP 0,55
FDF5 20FA JR NZ,L1
FDF7 2160EA LD HL,60000
FDF9 0BFF LD BC,555
FDFC 05 CS L2: PUSH BC
FDFE 2800 LD HL,0
FDFE 0BFE L3: IN 0,1254
FE01 0BFE CP 0,55
FE03 2801 JR NZ,L4
FE07 14 INC HL
FE08 10F7 L4: DUNZ LC
FE0A 32 LD HL,0
FE0B 23 INC HL
FE0C 01 POP BC
FE0D 10ED DUNZ LC
FE0F 00 NOP
FE10 2E02 LD D,2
FE12 0D0116 CALL 5600
FE14 2E04 CHL 3400
FE16 2E06 LD HL,0
FE18 2E08 LD HL,0
FE1A 1E09 EXX HL
FE1C 1E09 PUSH HL
FE1E 09 EXX HL
FE20 2E00 LD D,0
FE22 47 LD BC,0
FE24 0600 LD HL,0
FE26 0DE522 CALL 8900
FE28 2160EA LD HL,60000
FE2A 01 POP BC
FE2C 45 PUSH BC
FE2E 0600 LD HL,0
FE30 09 LD BC,0
FE32 46 LD HL,BC
FE34 0E00 LD HL,0
FE36 120101 LD HL,257

```

```

FE38 C0B24 CALL 9400
FE38 F1 POP AF
FE3C 3C INC R
FE3D 0BFE CP 255
FE3F 20E1 JR NZ,L5
FE41 09 EXX HL
FE42 E1 POP HL
FE43 09 EXX HL
FE44 C9 RET

>R
HEX LOADER

10 DEF FN A$(A)*CHR$(A+43*7*(
A>9))
20 DEF FN B$(A)=FN A$(INT (A/1
5))+FN A$(A-16*INT (A/16))
30 DEF FN C$(A)=FN B$(INT (A/2
56))+FN B$(A-256*INT (A/256))
40 DEF FN A$(A)=CODE A$-48-7*(
A$>"9")
50 DEF FN B(A$)=16*FN A(A$(1))
+FN A(A$(2))
100 LET N=65000: LET D$=""
110 IF D$="" THEN PRINT : PRINT
FN C$(N): INPUT D$
120 POKE N,FN B(D$)
130 PRINT D$ TO 2
140 LET N=N+1: LET D$=D$ TO 1
150 GO TO 110

```

BASIC PROGRAM

```

1 EORDER 1: PAPER 0
2 INK 6: CLS
3 RANDOMIZE USR 65000
4 INPUT A$: GO TO 5
5 LOAD "CODE"

```

Frequency
by Chris Eckersley

Screen Block Delete

on Spectrum

This machine code routine is designed to help you clear parts of the screen without damaging another part which you may

want to leave on.

The program will clear any line(s) or column(s) the user specifies. To use the routine do the following Pokes

27004 With the first column to clear - 1
27008 With no. of columns to clear
27014 With no. of lines to clear
27016 With specified paper colour

As the programme stands it will *Poke* in the machine code and then *List* the program three times and delete the top left-hand corner of the screen.

This program can be used when, for example, some instructions need to stay on the screen whilst others need not.

```

1 REM *****
2 REM **Screen Block Delete**
3 REM ** By D.Parkinson **
4 REM *****
5
8990 REM *SAVE CODE BY TYPING*
8991 REM SAVE "name" CODE 27000,25
8992
9000 FOR G=27000 TO 27025: READ
9: POKE G,G: NEXT G
9010 DATA 17,22,9,30,235,97,239,
6,16,225,35,229,197,6,12,54,53,2
37,90,16,250,193,16,241,235,201
9020 LIST : LIST : LIST : LET I=
USR 27000

```

Screen Block Delete
by D Parkinson

Shoot Out

on Vic20

You are a gunman. When an object appears in front of you, you must shoot as

quickly as you can by pressing Z. After you have shot, your gunman will blow his gun.

Program notes

10-25 Introduction
30-240 Prints man on screen
242-255 Moves object

250-345 Moves bullet and sound effects
500-700 Prints man blowing gun
710-770 Prints 'Got it'

Variables

N Object position
Q The bullet

```
10 PRINT "SHOOT OUT"
20 PRINT "BY IAN FIELDER"
21 PRINT "USE 'Z' TO FIRE"
25 FOR Q=1 TO 3000: NEXT
30 POKE 36879, 155
40 PRINT " "
50 PRINT " "
60 PRINT " "
70 PRINT " "
80 PRINT " "
90 PRINT " "
100 PRINT " "
110 PRINT " "
120 PRINT " "
130 PRINT " "
140 PRINT " "
150 PRINT " "
160 PRINT " "
170 PRINT " "
180 PRINT " "
190 PRINT " "
200 PRINT " "
210 PRINT " "
220 PRINT " "
230 PRINT " "
240 PRINT " "
242 N=7700
243 N=N+22
244 POKE N, 86
245 GOSUB 250
246 FOR M=1 TO 5: NEXT M
247 POKE N, 32
248 IF N=8184 THEN 242
249 GOTO 243
250 IF PEEK(197)=33 THEN 260
255 RETURN
260 Q=7909: R=15
261 POKE 36878, R
262 POKE 36877, 255
```

```
265 GOSUB 275
270 FOR I=1 TO 11: R=R-1: GOTO 280
275 POKE Q-22, 78: POKE Q+22, 77: POKE Q, 42: RETURN
280 POKE 36878, R: POKE 36877, 255: POKE Q+1, 46
290 FOR J=1 TO 5: NEXT J
295 POKE Q-22, 32: POKE Q+22, 32: POKE Q, 32
300 POKE Q+1, 32
310 Q=Q+1
320 IF PEEK(Q+1)=86 THEN 750
345 POKE 36877, 0
350 NEXT I
500 PRINT " "
510 PRINT " "
520 PRINT " "
530 PRINT " "
540 PRINT " "
550 PRINT " "
560 PRINT " "
570 PRINT " "
580 PRINT " "
590 PRINT " "
600 PRINT " "
610 PRINT " "
620 PRINT " "
630 PRINT " "
640 PRINT " "
650 PRINT " "
660 PRINT " "
670 PRINT " "
680 PRINT " "
690 PRINT " "
700 PRINT " "
710 FOR H=1 TO 2000: NEXT H
720 GOTO 40
730 PRINT " "
736 POKE 36877, 0
760 FOR L=1 TO 1000: NEXT L
770 GOTO 30
```

Shoot Out
by Ian Fielder

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OPEN FORUM

```

151:200,143:209,143:200,136:200,135:200
130
6050 DATA185,185,425
6055 RESTORE
6056 FORU=1TO63:READF:NEXT
6060 RETURN
7000 FORA=7680TO7680+21:POKEA,39:POKEA+
30720,3:NEXTA
7002 FORA=8164TO8164+21:POKEA,39:POKEA+
30720,3:NEXTA
7004 FORA=7680TO8164STEP22:POKEA,39:POKEA+
30720,3:NEXTA
7006 FORA=7701TO8185STEP22:POKEA,39:POKEA+
30720,3:NEXTA
7008 RETURN
8000 POKE36879,26:POKECE=38:POKECE+30720,0
8003 Z1=36864:Z2=36865:FORZ3=1TO50:Z4=INT
(RND(1)*2+10):Z5=INT(RND(1)*8+32)
8005 POKEZ2,Z5:POKEZ1,Z4:POKE36877,Z20
8010 FORK3=1TO25:NEXTK3:C3:POKEZ1,12:
POKEZ2,38:POKE36877,0:RETURN
9000 FORM=200TO209:POKE36876,M:NEXTM
POKE36876,0
9002 RETURN
9500 PRINT"NUMSPC:6"PRINT"FIRE"
POKE3151,0:POKE37154,127
9502 IF(PEEK(37137)AND32)GOTO9502
9504 RETURN
9750 PRINT"NUMSPC:7"PRINT"PRESS F7"
9751 POKE198,0
9752 IFPEEK(197)*263THEN9752
9754 RETURN
10000 K=PEEK(37137):Q=PEEK(37152)
10010 IF(KAND16)=0THENGOSUB2000
10020 IF(QAND128)=0THENGOSUB3000
10030 IF(KAND8)=0THENGOSUB4000
10040 IF(KAND32)=0THENGOSUB5000
10050 RETURN
10500 PRINT"LEFT"PRINT"RIGHT"
PRINT"DOWN-FIRE":PRINT"DOWN-SPACE"
PRINT"DOWN-HYPERSPACE":RETURN
10510 RETURN
20000 PRINT"DOWN-USE JOYSTICK"
PRINT"DOWN-HYPERSPACE":RETURN

```

Cavern Runner
by Andrew Hampton

Patterns

on BBC

The program produces a pattern on the screen and makes sound effects while doing this. It will run on both BBC machines without any modifications.

Program notes

10-50	Attributes.
60	Change to mode 2.
60-100	First section.
100-200	Second section.

```

10REM *****
20REM *** PATTERNS ***
30REM *** BY ***
40REM *** COLIN ***
50REM *** PRYKE ***
55REM *** AGED 14 ***
60REM *****
70CC=1
80MODE2
90FOR A=1 TO 1280
100SOUND0,-15,A/2,1
110GCOLOR,CC
120MOVE640,512
130DRAWA,1024
140MOVE640,512
150DRAWA,0

```

```

160CC=CC+1
170IF CC=8 CC=1
180NEXT
190FOR A=1 TO 1024
200SOUND1,-15,A/3,1
210GCOLOR,CC
220MOVE640,512
230DRAW0,1
240MOVE640,512
250DRAW1280,A
260CC=CC+1
270IF CC=8 CC=1
280NEXT

```

Patterns
by Colin Pryke



Murder at the Manor

Death comes to a quiet country village when the Lord of the Manor is savagely murdered.

The police are baffled with no obvious clues to help them. Your skills as an ace investigator are required to identify and apprehend the murderer. This will involve searching for clues (which could be dangerous requiring ingenious deductions), examining the scene of the crime and asking questions of the right people.

What is the mystery of the Gravediggers Hut?

What secret does the safe hold?

What lurks at the bottom of the brook?

These may be some of the questions you will ask yourself during your investigation into the murder at the manor.

The game is based on a fixed map, comprising the Manor House, the Garden, the Town, the Graveyard and many other fully described locations, inhabited by a variety of individual characters whom you are likely to meet.

It is up to you to solve the murder, the locals may know the answer — but will they tell YOU!

This original adventure fills your 48K Spectrum with over 120 locations, all of which are depicted in full colour machine-coded graphics.

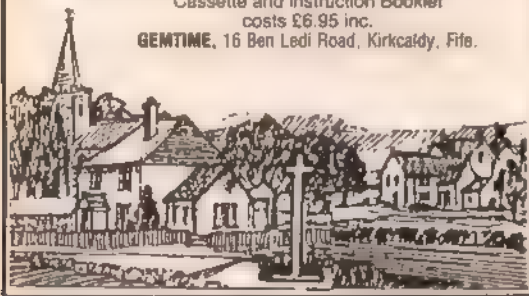
Add sound effects, a full score and save game facility plus a comprehensive and easy to use command analyzer (incorporating abbreviations and multi-command lines) and you are sure of many exciting and frustrating hours.

WARNING — this is a 4D adventure where night brings added difficulties.

*Highly recommended: (Popular Computing Weekly, Vol 2 No 42)

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• **LUNAR LANDER AND RESCUE** £9.95
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A challenging and well-written game. Dragon User
Very good. Dragon Data

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• **SUBMARINE COMMANDER** £9.95
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---	---

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OPEN FORUM

Close The Box

on Dragon 32

This program is based on the old board game for two or more players. Each player throws dice and covers the numbers indicated by the dice. He continues until no further moves are possible. The board is cleared and play passes to the next player. Any numbers remaining uncovered at the end of a player's turn are counted against

him. More than 45 points and you have lost. This continues until only one player is left.

Program notes

- 80 Sets up a string of green for blanking out words etc.
- 90-170 Ascertain the number of players and their names.
- 240-310 Set up board numbers
- 320 Prints the score.
- 400-420 Set up colour strings for the board.
- 430-510 Draw the board.
- 520 Holds the input prompt at the bottom left of

- 540-800 the screen.
 - 840 Enter players choice and prevent inadvertent entering of wrong numbers.
 - 910-940 Checks for a winner.
 - 970-1020 Roll die 1.
 - 1030 Print die 1 numbers.
 - 1040-1080 Checks for board score of six or less and deletes right die if required.
 - 1110-1160 Roll die 2.
 - 1200-1280 Print die 2 numbers.
 - 1290-1350 Instructions.
 - 1360-1380 Keeps score and notifies losers and the winner.
- The players overall score (in brackets) can be deleted by removing ["(X5 - B + S(1))"] in line 320.

```

10 CLS
20 PRINT@39,"* CLOSE THE BOX *"
30 PRINT@100,"* FOR *"
40 PRINT@169,"* DRAGON 32 *"
50 PRINT@232,"* J.D.BATEMAN *"
60 PRINT@299,"* 4/10/83 *"
70 FOR D=1 TO 250:NEXT
80 C=CHR$(143)+CHR$(143)+CHR$(143)+CHR$(143)+CHR$(143)
90 CLS:PRINT@224,"HOW MANY PLAYERS ARE T
HERE(PRESS NUMBER THEN ENTER)
100 INPUT X:CLS
110 I=X
120 DIM N$(X)
130 FOR J=1 TO X:CLS
140 PRINT@224,"PLAYER: J: PLEASE INPUT Y
OUR NAME."
150 INPUT N$(J)
160 NEXT J
170 CLS
180 PRINT@106,"INSTRUCTIONS?:PRINT@139,
"PRESS Y/N"
190 INPUT Q$
200 IF Q$="Y" THEN GOSUB 1200
210 S(1)=0
220 FOR I=1 TO X:PRINT@0,N$(I);:W=0:W1=0
:W2=0:W3=0:W4=0:W5=0:W6=0:W7=0:W8=0:B=0:
CLS
230 IF S(1)>45 THEN GOTO 1310 ELSE GOSUB
840
240 PRINT@136,"1":PRINT@139,"2"
250 PRINT@142,"3"
260 PRINT@232,"4"
270 PRINT@235,"5"
280 PRINT@238,"6"
290 PRINT@328,"7"
300 PRINT@331,"8"
310 PRINT@334,"9"
320 IF A<10 THEN B=A+B:PRINT@440,"YOUR S
CORE IS ";45-B;"( ";45-B+S(1);")"
330 PRINT@151,"PRESS"
340 PRINT@181,"REQUIRED"
350 PRINT@213,"NUMBERS"
360 PRINT@242,"THEN"
370 PRINT@278,"ENTER>"
380 PRINT@310,"OR (11)"
390 PRINT@339,"TO PASS PLAY"
400 X$=CHR$(138)+CHR$(129)+CHR$(13)+CHR
$(130)+CHR$(129)+CHR$(13)+CHR$(130)+CHR
$(129)+CHR$(13)+CHR$(130)+CHR$(133)
410 Y$=CHR$(138)+CHR$(133)
420 Z$=CHR$(138)+CHR$(132)+CHR$(140)+CHR

```

```

$(136)+CHR$(132)+CHR$(140)+CHR$(136)+CHR
$(132)+CHR$(140)+CHR$(136)+CHR$(133)
430 PRINT@102,X$;
440 PRINT@134,Y$;:PRINT@137,Y$;:PRINT@14
0,Y$;:PRINT@143,Y$;
450 PRINT@166,Z$;
460 PRINT@198,X$;
470 PRINT@230,Y$;:PRINT@233,Y$;:PRINT@23
6,Y$;:PRINT@239,Y$;
480 PRINT@262,Z$;
490 PRINT@294,X$;
500 PRINT@326,Y$;:PRINT@329,Y$;:PRINT@33
2,Y$;:PRINT@335,Y$;
510 PRINT@358,Z$
520 PRINT@86,CHR$(143);:PRINT@128,CHR$(1
43);:PRINT@160,CHR$(143);:PRINT@192,CHR$
(143);:PRINT@224,CHR$(143);:PRINT@256,CH
R$(143);:PRINT@288,CHR$(143);:PRINT@320,
CHR$(143);:PRINT@352,CHR$(143);:PRINT@38
4,CHR$(143);
530 INPUT M
540 IF A=D1 OR A=D2 THEN L=L+1
550 IF L>2 THEN A=0
560 IF A=W THEN B10
580 IF A=W1 THEN B10
590 IF A=W2 THEN B10
600 IF A=W3 THEN B10
610 IF A=W4 THEN B10
620 IF A=W5 THEN B10
630 IF A=W6 THEN B10
640 IF A=W7 THEN B10
650 IF A=W8 THEN B10
660 IF A=0 THEN B20
670 IF A=1) GOTO 1290
680 SOUND$5,5
690 IF A=D1 THENPRINT@19,C$;:PRINT@51,C$
;:PRINT@83,C$;
700 IF A=D2 THENPRINT@25,C$;:PRINT@58,C$
;:PRINT@89,C$;
710 IF A=D1+D2 THENPRINT@19,C$;:PRINT@25
,C$;:PRINT@51,C$;:PRINT@58,C$;:PRINT@83,
C$;:PRINT@89,C$;
720 IF A=1 THENW=1:PRINT@136,CHR$(128);
GOTO320
730 IF A=2 THENW1=2:PRINT@139,CHR$(128)
;:GOTO 320
740 IF A=3 THENW2=3:PRINT@142,CHR$(128);
GOTO320
750 IF A=4 THENW3=4:PRINT@232,CHR$(128);
GOTO320
760 IF A=5 THEN W4=5:PRINT@235,CHR$(128)

```


OPEN FORUM

```

:GOTO320
770 IF A=6 THEN W5=6:PRINT@238,CHR$(128)
:GOTO320
780 IF A=7 THENW6=7:PRINT@328,CHR$(128);
GOTO320
790 IF A=8 THENW7=8:PRINT@331,CHR$(128);
:GOTO320
800 IF A=9 THENW8=9:PRINT@334,CHR$(128);
:GOTO320
810 SOUND1,5
820 GOSUB 840
830 GOTO520
840 IF T=1 THEN1340 ELSEPRINT@0,N*(1);
PRESS P
850 PRINT@85,CHR$(143):PRINT@87,CHR$(143)
:PRINT@90,CHR$(143):PRINT@92,CHR$(143);
860 PRINT@32,"FOR YOUR DICE"
870 P$=INKEY$:IF P$=""GOTO 870
880 IF P$<"P" THEN SOUND 77,7:GOTO 840
890 FOR J=1 TO 20
900 L=0
910 PRINT@21,"*":PRINT@23,"*":PRINT@21,C
HR$(143):PRINT@23,CHR$(143)
920 PRINT@54,"*":PRINT@54,CHR$(143)
930 PRINT@85,"*":PRINT@87,"*":PRINT@85,C
HR$(143):PRINT@87,CHR$(143)
940 NEXT
950 D1=RND(6)
960 PRINT@50,D1
970 IF D1=1 THENPRINT@54,"*"
980 IF D1=2 THENPRINT@21,"*":PRINT@87,"
*"
990 IF D1=3 THENPRINT@21,"*":PRINT@54,"
*":PRINT@87,"*"
1000 IF D1=4 THEN PRINT@21,"*":PRINT@23
,"*":PRINT@85,"*":PRINT@87,"*"
1010 IF D1=5 THENPRINT@21,"*":PRINT@23,
"*":PRINT@54,"*":PRINT@85,"*":PRINT@87,
"*"
1020 IF D1=6 THENPRINT@21,"*":PRINT@23,
"*":PRINT@53,"*":PRINT@55,"*":PRINT@85,
"*":PRINT@87,"*"
1030 IFB>38 GOTO 1170
1040 FOR J=1 TO 30
1050 PRINT@59,"*":PRINT@59,CHR$(143)
1060 PRINT@26,"*":PRINT@28,"*":PRINT@26,
CHR$(143):PRINT@28,CHR$(143)
1070 PRINT@90,"*":PRINT@92,"*":PRINT@90,
CHR$(143):PRINT@92,CHR$(143)
1080 NEXT
1090 D2=RND(6)
1100 PRINT@61,D2;
1110 IF D2=1 THEN PRINT@59,"*";
1120 IF D2=2 THEN PRINT@26,"*":PRINT@92,
"*"
1130 IF D2=3 THEN PRINT@26,"*":PRINT@59,
"*":PRINT@92,"*"
1140 IF D2=4 THEN PRINT@26,"*":PRINT@28,
"*":PRINT@90,"*":PRINT@92,"*"
1150 IF D2=5 THEN PRINT@26,"*":PRINT@28,
"*":PRINT@59,"*":PRINT@90,"*":PRINT@92,
"*"

```

```

1160 IF D2=6 THEN PRINT@26,"*":PRINT@28,
"*":PRINT@59,"*":PRINT@60,"*":PRINT@90
,"*":PRINT@92,"*"
1170 FOR G=0 TO 10:PRINT@6,CHR$(143);:NE
XT
1180 FOR G=32 TO 44:PRINT@6,CHR$(143);:N
EXT
1190 RETURN
1200 CLS:PRINT@9,"close the box"
1210 PRINT@65,"THE PLAYER IN PLAY PRESSE
S <P> TO CAST THE DICE,AND THEN USES TH
E SCORE TO COVER THE NUMBERS (CLOSE THE
BOXES).WITH A THROW OF 5:4 FOR EXAMPLE
,HE CAN COVER 9 (THE AGGREGATE) OR USE
EACH ONE SEPARATELY TO COVER 5 AND 4.
1220 PRINT@289,"THE PLAYER PRESSES <ENTE
R> THENPRESSES <P> FOR THE NEXT CAST OF
HE DICE."
1230 PRINT@385,"AGAIN HE HAS THE CHOICE
OF THE AGGREGATE OR ONE OR BOTH NUMBERSU
SED SEPARATELY TO CLOSE BOXES."
1240 FOR J=1 TO 20000:NEXT:CLS
1250 PRINT@9,"close the box":PRINT@65,"H
E CONTINUES IN THIS FASHION UNTIL HE
IS UNABLE TO CLOSE AT LEAST ONE BOX.HE
JUST THEN INPUT11 HIS SCORE IS RECORDED
AND THEBOARD IS CLEARED.THE DICE ARE PA
SSED TO THE NEXT PLAYER."
1260 PRINT@257,"WHEN A PLAYER ACCUMULATE
S MORE THAN 45 POINTS HE DROPS OUT OF T
HE GAME." :FOR J=1 TO 10000:NEXT:CLS:PRIN
T@9,"close the box"
1270 PRINT@65,"IF THE AGGREGATE OF THE
NUMBERSLEFT ON THE BOARD IS SIX OR LESS
HE RIGHT DIE IS DISCARDED,PLAY IS CONTIN
UED UNTIL ALL THE BOXESARE CLOSED OR A S
CORE IS GIVEN WHICH CANNOT BE USED.THE
PLAYER ENDS HIS TURN BY INPUTTING 11.
1280 PRINT@320,THE LAST PLAYER LEFT IN
THE GAME IS THE WINNER." :FOR J=0
TO 15000:NEXT:RETURN
1290 CLS:S(1)=S(1)+45-B:IF S(1)>45 GOTO
1330
1300 PRINT@99,N*(1); YOUR SCORE IS";S(1)
:FOR D=0 TO 1500:NEXT:IF S(1)>40 THEN F
OR J=0 TO 25:PRINT@235,"BE CAREFUL":FOR
F=0 TO 2:PRINT@235,C$+C$+C$:NEXT F:SOUN
D 100,1:NEXTJ
1310 " <C> J.D.B. 4/10/83 <C>
1320 NEXT 1:CLS:GOTO 210
1330 T=T-J:PLAY"01L76FEDC":PRINT@99,N*(1)
; YOUR SCORE IS";S(1):PRINT@204,"you'r
e out":FOR J=0 TO 2500:NEXT J:CLS:GOTO 1
310
1340 CLS:PRINT@235,N*(1)
1350 PRINT@327,"you are the winner." :PLA
Y"04L8CEGL405C04L8GL405C"
1360 PRINT@448,"PRESS BREAK THEN TYPE RU
N TO TRY AGAIN
1370 GOTO1370

```

Close The Box
by J Bateman

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OPEN FORUM

Quasimodo

on Vic20

This program uses ugd, colour and sound. Move Quasimodo across the screen to ring the bell without being killed by the fireball. You have a time limit and points awarded by how far inside the limit you are.

Once you complete a screen you get a new sheet which is faster. The abbreviation "Q" should be used in the print statements at the end of the program.

Variables

Y = Your position.
X = Fireballs position.
SC = Score.
HI = Hi score.
TM = Time

LLS = Lives left
F = Extra life

Program notes

1-9 Sets up user defined graphics.
11-30 Set screen layout.
40-60 Move fireball and print score.
70-140 Move Quasimodo.
300-350 Cleared screen.
400-440 Dead.
500-580 End of game.
1000-1100 Title screen (my highest score is 12,390).

```

0 GOTO999
1 POKE51,255:POKE52,27:POKE55,255:POKE56,
  27:POKE36869,255
2 FORJ=0T0511:X=PEEK(32768+J):POKE7168+J,
  X:NEXT
3 FORJ=0T071:READX:POKE7432+J,X:NEXT
4 DATA24,24,60,90,153,36,34,33,42,92,234,
  255,103,246,90,44
5 DATA127,127,127,127,127,127,127,0
6 DATA254,254,254,254,254,254,254,0,1,1,
  1,1,1,1,1,1
7 DATA1,1,1,1,3,3,3,7,128,128,128,128,192,
  64,64,160
8 DATA7,15,31,63,63,126,16,15,160,208,232,
  240,240,126,8,240
9 POKE36879,8:POKE36878,15:N=0:T=200:Y=70
  34:X=7854:L=3:TM=990:M=2
10 F=0:SC=0:O=0:L$="!!!!"
11 PRINT"Q"
12 PRINTTAB(19);"M$"
13 PRINTTAB(19);"M$"
14 FORJ=1T05:PRINTTAB(19);"M$":NEXT
15 PRINT:FORJ=1T095:PRINT"###":NEXT:P
  RINT"###"
16 GOTO430
17 X=X-1:IFX<7835THENPOKE7835,32:X=7854
18 POKE7831,37
19 IFSC=39600THENS=0
20 PRINT"###HI=#####"HI:TAB(11);"
  #####"TM="TM
21 PRINT"###SC=#####"SC:TAB(11);"
  #####"RIGHT$(L$,L-1)
22 IFSC<HITHEHHI=SC
23 POKE34:POKE X+30720,1:POKE34,32:POK
  E36876,220:POKE36876,0
24 IFPEEK(X-1)=33THEN400
25 FORJ=1T0T NEXT
26 TM=TM-30:IFTM=0THEN400
27 G=0+1
28 IFG<MTHEN40
29 GETA$
30 IFA$="M"THENY=Y-1:POKE36876,200:POKEY+
  1,32
31 IFY=7834THENY=7835
  IFA$="M"THENY=Y+1:POKEY-1,32:POKE36876
  ,200
32 IFA$=" "ANDY=7833THENY=Y-22:POKEY+22
  ,32:Q1=1:POKE36876,200
33 IFQ2=3THENQ2=0:Y=Y+22:POKE36876,200:P
  OKEY-22,32
34 IFQ2=2THENQ2=3
35 IFQ1=1THENQ1=0:Q2=2
36 POKEY,33:POKE36876,0
37 IFPEEK(Y+1)=34THEN400
38 IFPEEK(7833+20)=33ORPEEK(7833+21)=33
  THEN300
39 GOTO40
40 N=N+1:T=T/1.4:SC=SC+TM
41 TM=990
42 FORC=1T05
43 FORJ=128T0255STEP5
44 POKE36876,J:NEXT:NEXT
45 IFT<10THENT=30
46 IFN=>10THENM=M+1
47 POKE36876,0
48 IFM=>6THENM=6
49 IFSC>1500ANDF=0THENL=L+1:F=F+1
50 POKEY,37:POKEY,32:X=7853:Y=7835
51 GOTO40
52 FORJ=255T0128STEP-.4
53 POKE36874,J:NEXT
54 POKE36874,0
55 L=L-1:IFL=0THEN500
56 N=0:T=200:TM=990:POKE36874,32:POKEY,32:X=
  7853:Y=7835
57 GOTO40
58 REM END OF GAME
59 PRINT"##### SCORE="SC"X"
60 PRINT"### AGAIN [Y/N]?"
61 GETW$:IFW$=" "THEN550
62 IFW$="Y"THEN9
63 IFW$="N"THENEND
64 GOTO550
65 POKE36879,152
66 PRINT"### QUASIMODO:PRINT"###
  BY GLENN ACKROYD:PRINT"### 1983"
67 PRINT"### GUIDE QUASIMODO TO THE
  BELL BEFORE THE TIME RUNS OUT"
68 PRINT"### JUMP OVER THE FIRE- BALLS!!"
69 PRINT"### CONTROLS:-"
70 PRINT"### CRSR DOWN = LEFT:PRINT" CRSR
  LEFT = RIGHT:PRINT" SPACE BAR = JUMP
  "
71 PRINT"### EXTRA LIFE AT 1500
72 GOTO1

```

Quasimodo
by Glenn Ackroyd



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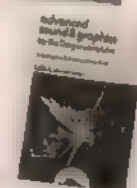
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on Spectrum

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invader should manage to reach earth, all his friends will join him and the game is over.

Program notes

2-30	Sets the graphics
100-225	Main program
230-1000	Speed of Invader
2000-2050	Fire
2500-2540	Alien death

3000-3060 Your death
9000-9550 User defined graphics

Graphic notes

120 = Graphic A, Inverse space, Graphic C,
Graphic C,
200 = Graphic E
220 = Graphic E
2030 = Graphic C
2510 = Graphic F
3020 = 32 Graphic E's
(Line 222 is simply 32 inverse spaces)

```

1 20 SUB 9000
3 LET A=0: LET Q=10: BORDER
5 PAPER 0: INK 7
3 LET Q=0
4 LET A=20: LET Y=0
8 LET Q=1: LET P=10
20 LET A=0: LET P=10
30 LET Q=0
100 REM *****
110 LET Y=Y+1: INK Y/50: P=P+1
120 (TIME: = 0 AND Y=1)
130 PRINT AT X,Y: "AT X=1, Y=1"
140
150 PRINT AT X=1, Y=1: "AT X=1, Y=1"
160 AT X=1, Y=1: "AT X=1, Y=1"
170 IF Y=5 THEN GO TO 130
180 LET Q=1: LET A=0
190 LET INK Y/50: THEN BEEP 1.
200 GO SUB 9000
140 IF Y=5 THEN FOR S=1 TO 3
160 PRINT AT S,1
180 G=INT (RND*5)
190 IF G=1 THEN LET Q=+1
200 IF G=2 OR G=4 THEN LET P=P-1
210 IF G=3 OR G=5 THEN LET P=P
220 IF P=30 THEN LET P=20
230 PRINT AT 1,1
240 G=20 THEN GO TO 300
250 IF G=5 THEN NEXT S
260 PRINT AT 0,0: INVERSE 1: "0"
270 "LOC AT 0,0: Value of 1"
280
290 PRINT AT 21,0: INV 1: "SAIR"
300
310 REM
320 IF S=50 THEN LET Y=7
330 IF S=100 THEN LET Y=5
340 IF S=200 THEN LET Y=1
350 IF S=300 THEN LET Y=1
360 GO TO 100
370 REM *****
380 PRINT AT 2,0: "2"
390 PRINT AT 2,1: "1"
400 GO TO 100
410 PRINT AT 2,1: "1"
420 PRINT AT 2,1: "1"

```

```

0040 IF 2=0 AND C=0=1 OR 0=1 AND C=1 THEN GO TO 2500
0050 GO TO 2000
0060 REM
0070 PRINT AT 0.P, FLASH 1;"X"
0080 GOTO 2500
0090 BEEP .5,30: BEEP .5,40
0100 LET S=C+E+(20-0)
0110 PRINT AT 0.P;"
0120 GO TO 5
0130 REM AT 0.P, FOR 0=1 TO 2500
0140 BEEP .5,0
0150 PRINT
0160 NEXT N
0170 NEXT N
0180 PRINT AT 10,10: FLASH 1;"G"
0190 GO OVER AT 12,0:"Score: ",S
0200 IF INKEY="" THEN GO TO 30
0210
0220 RUN
0230 REM
0240 RESTORE 9500
0250 FOR I=1 TO 25: GOTO 2500
0260 NEXT I
0270 RETURN
0280 DATA BIN 00000001,BIN 0000
0290 DATA 00000111,BIN 00001111,B
0300 DATA 00011110,BIN 00111100,BIN 011
0310 DATA 11110000
0320 DATA 11100000,BIN 11111000,E
0330 DATA 00111000,BIN 00111100,BIN 001
0340 DATA 00011111
0350 DATA 00011100,BIN 00110000,BIN
0360 DATA 00011000,BIN 00011000
0370 DATA 00011000,BIN 00011000
0380 DATA 00011000,BIN 00011000
0390 DATA 00011000,BIN 00011000
0400 DATA 00111111,BIN 0101
0410 DATA 01111010,BIN 01111110
0420 DATA 01111010,BIN 01111010,BIN 01
0430 DATA 10000000
0440 DATA 10010001,BIN 1001
0450 DATA 10011000,BIN 10011000
0460 DATA 10101001,BIN 1010
0470 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0480 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0490 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0500 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0510 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0520 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0530 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0540 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0550 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0560 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0570 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0580 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0590 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0600 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0610 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0620 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0630 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0640 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0650 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0660 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0670 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0680 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0690 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0700 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0710 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0720 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0730 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0740 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0750 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0760 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0770 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0780 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0790 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0800 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0810 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0820 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
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0900 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0910 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0920 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0930 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0940 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0950 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0960 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0970 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0980 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
0990 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011
1000 DATA 10110001,BIN 1011

```

Allen Attack by P Baillie

Microradio

GW6JJN



Morse tutor

As promised, here are some reviews of amateur radio software on the market. The first tape is a morse code tutor written by two people with the name J E Price. Their callsigns are G40IK and G40IL and the mail order address is 4 Housman Walk, Kidderminster, Wores DY10 3XL; the price of the tape for the 1b or 48K Spectrum is £4.50.

The program by Messrs Price is a professional piece of software which is extremely suitable for learning morse code to the standard required by the examiner. The program opens with some nice user

defined graphics of morse keys hammering away. The program is menu driven and, by selecting the required speed and lesson, the computer patiently bleeps out morse code in groups of letters and/or figures.

You can return to the menu at any time to change the lesson and each time this happens there is a pleasing screen clear routine. A morse tutor is not a very sophisticated problem for a computer, so the routines that are added to this program give it a nice touch of professionalism that makes the tutor value for money.

The second tape received was from G4RWT Amateur Radio Software, 68 Forest Road, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6JX. The price is £4.50 (cheques to R M Walton). This tape consists of ■ morse tutor for the 16K Spectrum, a morse tutor for the 48K Spectrum and a program called Sattrack, also for

the Spectrum. *Sattrack* is, of course, ■ satellite tracking program.

The first impression is that this tape is good value, two for the price of one, and this impression is confirmed by use. The Morse tutor is also a good piece of software, professionally executed and perfectly adequate for learning the code. Again, graphics are used and there are instruction sheets that help in understanding the program.

The accompanying sheets also contain an interface diagram, which will help you to interface the Spectrum to the transceiver in order to send morse code from within the program. One of the menu selections is a morse keyboard, which enables you to send morse simply by pressing the relevant key on your micro.

The *Sattrack* program also has instructions about its use. This program will enable you

to track any amateur satellite, given its orbital data (available from AMSAT). Data is built into the program, but this may need updating from time to time. Since the going rate for a computer program on tape these days is about a fiver, then you must consider this a good value. Both the tutor and the Sattrack program do what is required of them and both are user friendly in that the user is prompted for input and the instructions are clear.

If there are any other producers of radio software out there, then please let me know — there is far too little radio software about as it is for it to go unsung.

Ray Betty GWS JJN

This series of articles is designed for radio and microcomputer enthusiasts alike. If you have any queries that you want answered, hints and tips to share, or topics that you would like to see covered, write to: Ray Barry, *Microradio*, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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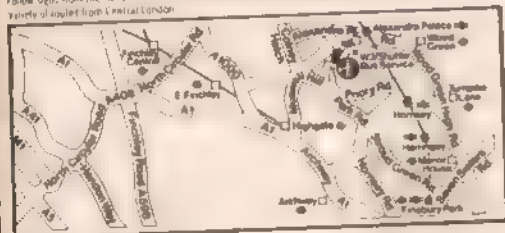
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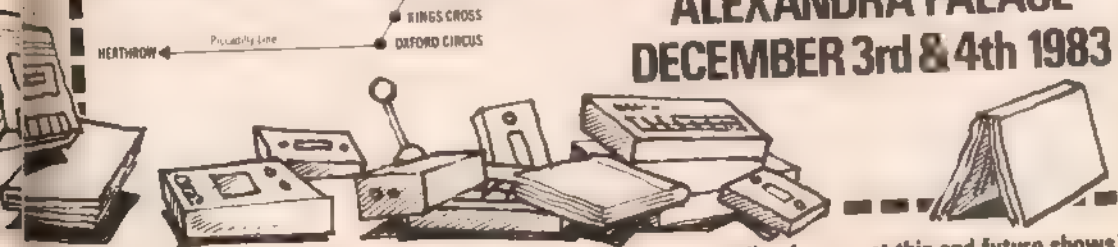
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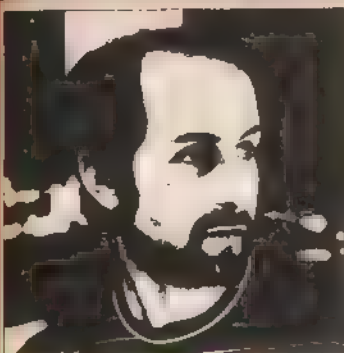
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Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



Dragon advice

Knight's Quest, from Phipps Associates (which I first looked at in issue 42), seems to be holding the attention of a lot of people at the moment. Playing this for the few moments that I could spare, when it first arrived, I thought — yes, a nice traditional adventure, which will pass a few hours. But recently, I have come to look upon it as very much more complex than I had originally thought. And so, it appears, do several of our regular readers.

Geoffrey Larsen, of Clifton, in Bristol, for example, reckons that *Knight's Quest* "becomes increasingly more addictive and difficult as you progress, and I preferred it to *The Hobbit*" — high praise indeed! Susan Schoen, of Cardiff, also enjoyed playing *KQ*, and sent me an account of her game, written entirely from memory, as her Spectrum had surrendered after giving sterling service for the duration! Thanks to both of you for a lot of very helpful advice, and thanks to Phipps, who have very kindly sent me some welcome hints to help me answer your queries.

A few weeks ago, I gave you the wrong advice to help you deal with the Dragon — at that time I said you would, eventually, need to kill the Dragon, so that you would be able to cross over the river in the ferry. Well, although the Dragon is too heavy to come in the ferry with you, and you will have to cross the river, don't kill the Dragon! I'm afraid that reviewer's short-sightedness overcame me, and I didn't realise that the adventurer would need the Dragon at a later stage (thus going against my own Golden Rule of Adventuring, *Everything has a purpose*!).

The Dragon will be extremely useful to you later in the Adventure, and in his cave, you may find something just as useful (although this will take a bit of lateral thinking, and is not an easy problem to crack). This is only the very start of the Adventure — you'll find a lot more to keep you happy. As Geoffrey Larsen says, "There are many more problems in this game than *The Hobbit*!"

Knight's Quest is an Adventure that will keep you happily frustrated for many a long hour, and is one that I can recommend without hesitation. Incidentally, Geoffrey, if you are still having problems in *Colossal Adventure*, from Level 9, all I can

say is that you are on the right track with the magic words — but you need to say them directly after climbing the beanstalk (remember the fairy story!). Have you found the Emerald yet? Once you have found the treasure that you are seeking, you must use another magic word to deposit the treasure in the building.

From one Dragon to another — I've already had an update, from Dungeon Software, of their latest large release of Adventure programs. The first of the programs is *Return of the Klarz*, the sequel to *Crystal Chalice*, which I mentioned a couple of weeks ago. Then comes *Dream Machine*, which is programmer Mike Meineck's "answer to *Pirmania*!" and finally *Back Lot*, which is "an Adventure set after hours on the back lot of a Hollywood film studio".

Mike, feeling that he is not worked hard enough doing all this, is now adding Commodore 64 graphics to the whole range. I haven't actually seen any of these Adventures yet, but apparently many of you have invested in them and are already, says Peter Woods, the Dungeon-master, ringing in with pleas for help with dealing with the piranhas in the Black Lake, in *Crystal Chalice*.

His advice, which he would like me to pass on to anyone struggling with the problem, is to study how the Brazilian Indians deal with them when crossing rivers!

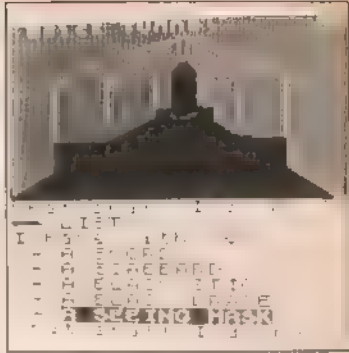
Sticking with the Dragon, and new releases, Salamander Software have just let loose *Lost in Space* on an unsuspecting world. The subject of this, the second in the Dan Diamond trilogy, concerns the sub-Mike Hammer private eye getting stuck on a derelict spaceship (from Sunset Strip to a trip into the Sun!). The ship is filled with chatty doors (believe me!) and bored robots. The object is to escape, and this you must do by finding your way to the bridge and taking control of the ship.

The display is the same as in Part One. *Franklin's Tomb*. Top left is a description of the current location, and anything that you may be able to see. On the right of the screen is an inventory list, which is visible throughout the game, while the bottom third of the screen contains all your command input and the computers' responses. As well as the usual kind of objects found in this type of Adventure, you will also come across several coloured discs, for which you will find special uses (so I'm reliably informed!).

The program recognises a vocabulary of about 50 verbs and 80 nouns — but watch out for Red Herrings and Blue Kippers!

Following the example set by *Franklin's Tomb*, a manual is included in the package, graced by 13 pages of beautifully-drawn pictures of the locations (and these may contain vital clues).

The video-style cases that contain the Adventures seem to be getting bigger with each one — are Dan's cases also getting bigger? Anyway, *Fishy Business* is the third part of the trilogy, and I can't wait!



Gary Miller, of Peckham, in the course of a long letter containing a large gripe (write to the company concerned, Gary, and ask for a Hint sheet. I know that they produce one, and may, indeed, give help on a specific point if you ask), mentions the good old *Hobbit* problem, the Goblin's Dungeon!

This has been covered very well in previous corners, Gary, and I'm not going over it again, but if you are still stuck, and for the benefit of newcomers to *The Hobbit* (and if you are the proud owner of a BBC, Commodore, or Oric, then this program must be added to your collection — ask your favourite aunt to make it a Christmas pressy for you!), then turn to the Adventure Corner in *PCW*, 21-27 July, where some, if not all, should be revealed.

Gary reckons that *Sorcerer's Castle*, from Mikrogen — one of the ultimate Adventures. He is an old Dungeons and Dragon fan, and obviously enjoys the good old-fashioned monster-bashing.

There are one or two more programs around that borrow from D&D, although a solo outing on a computer can only really be a rather pale imitation of the original. However, I like *Dungeon Master*, from Crystal Computing, and you should find that it gives you a good flavour of D&D, with Charisma, Wisdom, Intelligence, and all the other details such as Hit Points, lots of Magic Spells and plenty of potions all making an appearance.

Not only that, but *Dungeon Creator*, on the same tape, allows you to actually play *Dungeon Master* and map out and populate your own Dungeon in the privacy of your own home (see a more detailed look in the tape in Adventure Corner, *PCW*, 22-28 September). An excellent pair of programs which should whet the appetite of the jaded D&Der.

This series of articles is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any further, write to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Corner, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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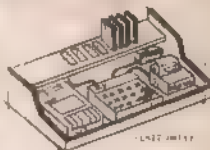
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IN COMMAND

Michael J Lever of Lilliesfield Avenue, Barnwood, Gloucester, writes:

Q I own two 48K Spectrums, one is an Issue 1, and the other is an Issue 2. I have discovered an interesting (and annoying) difference, between the two of them. It concerns the *In* command.

Normally the *In* command should return just one value, (255), if no key is pressed. I have used this feature in a number of games, written on my Issue 1 Spectrum. However I discovered that when I loaded the games into my Issue 2, *In* returned a value of 191, and the games did not work properly.

Can you tell me how to remedy this bug, so that 255 is returned on my Issue 2 Spectrum?

A To be fair to Sinclair, the specifications never suggested that *In* would always return 255. The way to get 255 returned is to make sure that 255 is there. If you proceed the *In* with *Out* x, 255 where x is the keyboard value you are checking, then *In* will return a value equal to the *Out* value. Unless, of course, that value is changed by pressing a key.

TAPE TO DISC

David Cartwright of Bowshaw, Dronfield, Sheffield, writes:

Q At the school I attend we have a computer room with 11 computers, three of which are connected to disc drives. I use the computer room quite a lot and we have recently acquired several discs

for the disc drive machines.

However, I have found that the system for saving and loading machine code programs on tape does not work on the discs. Could you please tell me how to put machine code programs on to disc and how to calculate the address.

I know how to transfer from tape to tape but nobody at school knows how to do this on a disc. When I looked it up in the manuals under 'Save it' just gave a lot of meaningless address letters, FFFF, 5555 etc. Even the teachers could not help. Please can you help as I urgently need an answer?

A A lot of people have been disappointed when, having bought discs, they find that they cannot easily transfer programs on tape to the disc. Most of the problems stem from the fact that the disc operate by using 2.5K of user RAM. Essentially what you'll have to do is relocate all the programs on tape so that they do not use any of the same space as the discs. The cassette page is at & 1000 while the discs are at & 1900. Any program using the space in between will find it already occupied.

To explain in any detail how to move the programs would take an article that is beyond the scope of this page. If you try the following: OPT 1.2 then *CAT and then Run the program. At the end you will get the length, load address, and execute address in that order. This should be enough for you to relocate your program.

RAM PACK WOBBLE

Eileen Morris of Beechwood Drive, Woodford Green, Essex, writes:

Q Can you offer some advice to a young at heart pensioner who has just bought herself a ZX81? I bought one of those packs that have the extra 16K RAM in it, and I was doing fine until I put the extra RAM on to play chess. The screen displays the program but it wavers all over the place. It's not the cassette recorder. Any advice?

A This letter firmly disproves the theory that

every computer owner is a male under the age of 20. I hope I can solve your problem. There are two likely causes. One is that your television just needs re-tuning slightly. All computers can wander off-channel sometimes, the ZX81 more than most. Adding the RAM pack might help to de-tune it. Because you actually get the program on the screen I think this is the most likely cause of your problems.

The other cause could be something to do with the timing, or the coding of the timing signal. The problem should be in the RAM pack as the computer works well enough without it fitted. Do you find that the pattern 'beats' or does it seem random? The easiest thing to check here is that the RAM pack is firmly attached to the computer. RAM pack wobble is still a major cause of faults on the ZX81.

■ re-tuning the television doesn't work and you're sure the RAM pack is fixed tightly. I'm afraid you'll just have to return the pack to the manufacturers.

FLAT ADAPTOR

David Jones of Haol Cefn, Ciermawr, Morriston, Swansea, writes:

Q Please can you help a down and out computer Junkie? Last week I trod the streets of Swansea looking for the six-pin flat adaptor for the Vic20 and the C2N cassette deck.

The answer I got from all the computer and audio shops was that my only hope was to contact Commodore direct, and that it would otherwise be impossible to obtain. I have now waited a week and a half but have had no reply from them. Do you know where I might write, phone, or pray I get one?

A What you need is a US standard edge connector.

Is there anything about your computer you don't understand, and which everyone else seems to take for granted? Whatever your problem *Peek* it to Ian Beardsmore and every week he will *Poke* back as many answers as he can. The address is *Peek & Poke*, PCW, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

PASS WORDS

Shane Gale of Alecutt Way, Witham, Essex, writes:

Q I am writing to ask you if, when you are dialling into another computer, you have to guess the pass words? Or is there a manual available that lists them? I already have access to the code numbers of six or seven large computers, but the missing piece of the puzzle is the code words. Can you help?

A No, of course you don't have to guess the pass words, but the whole idea is that only the user knows them, and no one else. Why have a pass word to protect a system, if a list of them were readily available? I can understand the excitement, and sense of achievement, that must come from breaking into a computer system. However, what people do not seem to realise is that apart from being theft, it is also very dangerous, especially if, as has happened in the United States, people try to break nuclear and military computers. These people have now been caught by the FBI.

Remember that the government does not know that your intentions are innocent — if caught you could find yourself being treated more like a terrorist. Breaking generally, it's just likely to create problems in the long-run as companies spend more and more money preventing it. It could, for example, mean that the computer checks the source of each call — a kind of phone tapping. Would you want that?

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48K SPECTRUM plus Kempston joystick plus £150 worth of software including Hobbit, Jetpac, Penetrator, etc. £230. Tel: 01-4851 4884 after 5 pm.

48K SPECTRUM, live months old, with quick shot joystick and £100 of software including Jet-Pac, Trans-Am, etc. Still boxed, mint condition worth £250. Sell for £140. Tel: Newmarket 741788.

A BARGAIN for all Spectrum owners, only £10 for a joystick interface, uses standard Atari joysticks and adaptor tape for £20. Tel: Preston (0722) 717607 after 5 pm. Ask for Martin.

ORIGINAL ZX SPECTRUM SOFTWARE: Jetpac, Pssst! Horace and Spiders, EasySpeak, 3D Combat Zone, Spectral Invaders, Arcadia, Voice Chess, Inheritance, Meteor Storm, £4 each. 11 Pounder, 59 Hadrian Way, Sandway, Cheshire, CW8 2JT. Please enclose SAE.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale. Games Designer (Quicksilver), £7 or £15. Fifth Basic Extension (CFL), £7 or £15 for both. As new and boxed. Tel: Mr Cunningham on 0382-23181 extension 651. Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

£145 WORTH OF SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale including Hobbit, Scramble, Pimania, Horace etc. Send SAE for list to T & J Richards, 39 Colman Walk, Lockdeaze, Bristol BS7 9UG.

FOUR ZX SPECTRUM BOOKS for sale or swap. Over the Spectrum Spectrum. Spectrum games. 20 Best Programs. Cost over £20. Sell for £2.50 each. Tel: Harpenden 6006.

48K SPECTRUM, good condition two months old. £250 worth of software. Tel: Cleveland 585 784 after 5 pm.

48K SPECTRUM with three games. £100. Zenith on 35m camera £30. Grandstand Astrowars with prop supply £20. Grandstand Min-muncher £5. Television games £5. Tel: Newton-le-Willows 21444.

SINCLAIR 48K SPECTRUM, £150 software, eight months guarantee. eight months insurance policy £110. Tel: 021-373 7209 after 5 pm.

48K SPECTRUM plus £70 of software and £180 worth of Lego will swap for quite new and good condition BBC Model III. Tel: Burgess Hill 2760 after 5.30 pm.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE. Hobbit, Penetrator, Jetpac, Manic Miner worth £210. Sell for £100. Also printer plus three rolls of paper, sound amp, Kempston interface. Any offers. Tel: North Shields 578944 after 6 pm.

48K SPECTRUM DK Tronics keyboard over £300 software only three months old includes Hobbit, Scramble, Vainalla, Manic Miner, Games Designer, Kong and many more. £220. Tel: 0375 678813.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale. Tel: Chesterfield 852-639, ask for Chris.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE FOR SALE. 12 games for £40. Tel: 01-874 4221.

SOFTWARE FOR 48K SPECTRUM to sell or swap. Hobbit £7, Transylvanian Tower, Pharaohs Tomb, Rescue £3 each, swap for adventure utilities, etc. Write to: Stefan, Flat 2, 1 Station Road, Lytham, Lancs.

16K SPECTRUM, 12 weeks old, boxed, perfect and tape recorder, sound expander, programmable, joystick, 15 arcade tapes and other. Cost £250, will take £140, can deliver. Tel: 01-674 7631.

FOR SALE, 48K Spectrum and light pen plus £600 of software. 35 original tapes, £60 of books and magazines, tape recorder. Tel: 0555 71502, ask for Ben, £230.00.

48K SPECTRUM, two months old, still under guarantee, complete with Sanyo tape recorder, manuals, extra books, magazines, also software. Flight, Golf, Derby Day, Football Manager, Chess, etc. £130. Tel: Mason, 0602 834596.

SPECTRUM GAMES FOR SALE. Astro Blaster, Molar Mail, Cookie, Jumping Jack, £4, Super Spy, Manic Miner, Knot in 3D, £5, Xadom, £5.50 plus others. Tel: Matthew 0444 452720 evenings.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE, Penetrator, Chess, Horizons, Flight, VU-file, books as new. £4 each. Tel: Tonbridge (0732) 361920.

SPECTRUM 48K, two months old, with Sanyo DR101 cassette and four games cassettes plus manuals and computer magazine, £190. Tel: 01-575 3968 between 11 am and 5 pm.

SPECTRUM 48K, sell for £100, software worth £100, sell for £70 or Spectrum and software for £140. Write: Mount Pleasant, Shawwood Street, Workshop, Notts. Mansfield NG20 0JF.

SPECTRUM ZX 48K, unused still boxed with guarantee + £100 books + software, all for £130. Tel: Alex 01-748 6630.

SPECTRUM ZX 16K, with software, offers of £75. Tel: 01-680 5673 (Forest Hill), after 4 pm.

SPECTRUM, 48K, all leads and manuals, very good condition + printer, only 1 month old - rolls of paper + vast amount of software. Tel: 01-807 6844, after 4 pm (Edmonton).

SPECTRUM software, over 100 titles for sale, including The Hobbit, Zoom, Aquarius, Manic Miner, Penetrator, Flight Simulation. Send wants list or see to Mike Russell, 10 Gwastad Terrace, Aberlenny, Gwent NP23 1JY.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE, all perfect originals at half price plus postage, including Scramble VU-3D, Flight Simulation, Timegate, Magic Mountain, Monopoly, Inca Curse, 3D Tunnel, Pharaohs Tomb, Golden Apple, Phone Hugby 73594 (evenings).

48K SPECTRUM PRINTER, joystick interface full size keyboard compatible tape recorder £700 worth of software. 50 originals, £40 books + magazines. Offers only £280. Tel: David 0555 72175.

48K ZX SPECTRUM, printer, 10 rolls of paper, £70 of software, £35 worth of magazines - 2 books for £200. Tel: D. Sparks 01-529 5353.

ZX SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for 16-48K if you own a Spectrum then don't miss this same day dispatch Jet-Flight £50, Picture Maker £10, Sheep Dog £10, Asteroid Dodger £4, Cheques PO to Gregory Bartlett High View, Somerton Hill, Langport, Somerset.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for sale or swap. Jetpac, Jet Man, Gndrunner, Zoom, Armageddon, Centpede, Leap Frog, Space Raiders, Schizoids, Football Manager. Tel: Chris (after 6 pm) on 021-378 2003.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE all 50% list price: Hungry Horace, Mined Out, Zoom, Jumping Jack, Terror Daktyl, Moma Meets Bikers, Go To Jail, over Spectrum (utilities and games). Tel: 0734 689094 (evenings).

48K SPECTRUM plus software worth £180 and magazines, £200. Tel: 01-685 1768.

SPECTRUM 48K, 11 months old + quick shot joystick + fuller board + 12 games, including Jet Pack, Time Gate, Pssst! Machine Code book, magazines + more, worth over £300, sell for £200. Tel: 01-992 1362.

SPECTRUM 48K printer, paper, Fuller master unit + demo + games tape £240. Ring Mark, 01-527 7365 Walthamston (after 6 pm).

SPECTRUM 48K with cassette, three months old, swap for Dragon 32. Tel: Thadford 3654 (during day, ask for Robin) or write: 101 Canterbury Way, Thetford, Norfolk.

48K SPECTRUM, two months old + games, tape recorder + magazines, worth £325, sell £250.00 or will separate. Tel: 01-229 2830.

ZX SPECTRUM 48K + printer + joysticks + interface + sound board + 12 software cassettes + other magazines, games + machine code book, cost £300, sell £230. Tel: Bungay (Suffolk) 2043.

SPECTRUM 48K with three channel sound synthesizer + compatible tape recorder + lots software, only £110. Tel: Dave, Rainham 23341.

48K SPECTRUM, very good condition + £80 software + amplifier, £140.00. Tel: Romford 45283, after 6 pm.

SPECTRUM 48K PRINTER, rolls of paper, fuller master unit + demonstration and software tapes, £240. Tel: Mark, 01-527 7365.

48K SPECTRUM ZX INTERFACE with new Rom cartridge, four games, Chess, Hungry Horace, portable tv, good working condition, £200 (no less). Tel: Alan Tumpke, 01-305 0271, evenings only.

48K SPECTRUM, used one month, tapes, magazines, excellent condition, worth £250, sell for £190.00. Quick sale, cannot deliver (Liverpool area). Tel: 051-733 0090.

SPECTRUM 16K GAMES for sale, Hungry Horace, Spawn of Evil and Mikro-Gen Scramble, best offer secures Tel: Steadford 60694, evenings 7 pm to 9 pm (ask for Howard, if out leave telephone number).

SPECTRUM TAPES, Halla of the Things (Crystal), C5, Phantasia (Rabbit), £4, Espionage Island (Arlie), £5. Tel: Dunstable 0582 64576.

SPECTRUM 16K, brand new, never used + 3 games cassettes, total cost £112, selling for £65. Tel: Swindon 812080, evenings or weekends.

SPECTRUM software over 70 tapes to sell or swap for good Doctor Who items. See for list or offers to: Edward, 9 Stamford Crescent, Little Plumstead, Norwich, Norfolk NR13 5JL.

SPECTRUM 48K, £95, software cassette, all original, half price. Reversi, Penetrator, Space Intruder, Berserk, Cascade, 50 Games, Horace, etc. Tel: 01-304 3659.

SPECTRUM PROGRAMS including Scramble, Trader, Horace, Zip Zap, Zoom, Combat Zone, Cookie, Trans-Am, etc. Lists A, Moran, 23 Egerton Road South, Chorlton, Manchester M21 1YP.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE to swap or sell. Tel: John after 5 pm on Waltham Cross 21260.

ZX81s for sale

ZX81 with 16K and software and books, all for £25. Tel: 01-625 5007 after 6.30 pm

SWAP 16K ZX81 with software and tape recorder for £100. Tel: David, 01-654 4305.

ZX81 16K, plus printer and file sixty keyboard, over £50 worth of software, will sell for £70 on Tel: Bicester 246938

ZX81 SOFTWARE includes: Chess, 3D Monster Maze, Invaders, Scramble, Asteroids, loads perfectly, very cheap. Tel: 01-540 7860 for prices and details. Hurry, first come, first served.

ZX81, 16K, with £70 worth of best selling software including PacMan, Donkey Kong, Asteroids, Scramble, Defender, Galaxians, Flight Simulation, Tempest, Football and others. Sell for £40. Tel: Maiton (0653) 4547

16K ZX81, still under guarantee, good condition, £35. Tel: 0202 699013

ZX81, 16K, over £50 software including Flight Simulation, Trader, manual, leads, etc., sell for £45 on Tel: Amersham 4920 (after 6 pm) and ask for Nick

ZX81 FOR SALE, 16K, book, £35. Tel: 01-776 1462

SINCLAIR, 16K, ZX81 manual, several books + magazines, £30 of software including Black Crystal + Flight Simulation, sell for £60 on, or swap 100 Spectrum. Contact Mike, 84 Crabtree Walk, Packham, London SE15.

ZX81, 16K, 1M 60 keyboard, 13 cassette, Mazogs, Cooler Attack, ZX Chess 2, Flight Simulation, H-res 35 magazines + Machine language book, ideal Christmas present, bargain £90 on Tel: 01-427 2563 (eves)

ZX81, 16K, Flight Simulation cassette, sell or swap — send offer to Mr Leese, 30 Greninger Close, Basingstoke, Hants Tel: 22409

ZX81, 16K, DK Itronics keyboard, case, lots of software, books, joystick, £80 on Tel: 01-992 8292

ZX81 + PSU + 32K Ram (uncased) + 1 games, Basic games book + magazines, sell £40, or exchange for Aquarius, cash adjustment £50. Tel: 01-853 5993

ZX81, 16K Ram pack, 15 games, £40 on Tel: Manchester 427 6392

16K ZX81 complete with over £50 worth of software, including Black Crystal, Mazogs, Chess, Football Manager and Frogger plus magazines. All for £50. Tel: 0522-680080 (after 6 pm)

Commodores for sale

VIC20 with cassette joystick, 16K Ram pack, five games, introduction to Basic Part 1, Rabbit Database graphic adventure game, Money Management program, Programmers Reg Guide, 30 magazines plus black and white TV. £135. Tel: Slough 35877

VIC20 with power lead for sale, £75. Tel: 01-860 0805 evenings only

VIC20 plus 16K cassette unit, Programmers Aid cartridge, introduction to Basic, Part I and II, five cartridges, over £200 worth of cassettes and £50 worth of books. Offers please. Tel: 061-491 2117 day; 0254 580351 evenings

VIC20 SOFTWARE to swap or sell Tel: 05212 3503

VIC20 SOFTWARE FOR SALE, all original, including Jelpac, Wacky Walters, Kong and Adventures, only £3 each or the lot for £25. Phone Michael Barker (after 4.30) on 051-5484242

VIC20 SOFTWARE FOR SALE, £1 under original price — Super Landlord cartridge. Tel: Enith 41849

COMMODORE VIC20 with 16K expansion — Adventureland cartridge, C2N cassette, Vic Revealed book, £130 on. Tel: 0555 70992

COMMODORE 64 software for sale or swap tape or disk. Tel: Peter, 577 2476

VIC20 C2N cassette, stack storeboard with 8K joystick, 3 games cartridge, Chess cartridge dust cover, Vic revealed £155, machine code cartridge £25. Tel: 01-422 6331

COMMODORE 64, Frogger, Scramble, Crazy Kong, Camels Hungry Horace original software £16 the lot, less than half price. Tel: Great Yarmouth 0493-661024

VIC20, cassette, software sale swap, also cartridges (adventure), many files from Amiro, Imagine, Rabbit, Romik, Bug-Byte, Audiogen, Commodore, Llamasoft, etc. All enquiries welcome now! Tel: Mitchell (0362) 4497 (after 4.30 pm)

VIC20 SOFTWARE, to swap or sell. Arcadia, Gorf, Amok, Scramble, Road Race, Frantic, Traxx, Andes Attack. Tel: Buckland St Mary 213 (after 5 pm)

VIC20 — 3K, datassette joystick, super expander and four games cartridges, over 200 programs on cassettes, many magazines and four books, worth over £320, sell for £120. Tel: Talsheaf (05958) 656

COMMODORE VIC20 with cassette unit, joystick, £200 of software, 3 books, cost £410, sell for £150. Tel: Luton (0582) 507442 (after 4 pm weekdays)

VIC20 + magazines and box, £80 on. Tel: 0296 3158 (after 5 pm)

COMMODORE VIC20, still under guarantee, data recorder unit machine, language monitor, joystick, 4 games, programmers reference guide, introduction to Basic Part I, learning to use Vic20, £30 games + user's manuals, £160. Tel: (0582) 660856

VIC MASTERMIND — 4 data tapes, quizmaster, Biology, Road User, Wizard and Princess adventure pack + Hopper. £35 the lot or will separate. Phone Ingebourne 76431

VIC20 + cassette unit + joystick + games + books and magazines, £100. Tel: 01-7471242 (after 4 pm)

SWAP THE COUNT for Pirate Cove or Voodoo Castle — Vic20 Tel: 0642-762475

VIC20 COSMIC Crunchers cartridge to swap for any adventure cartridge or to sell for £5. Tel: Norwich 413673

VIC20 CASSETTE DECK, 16K Ram pack, 150 worth of software, A joystick, introduction to Basic manual, worth £290, will sell for £150. Contact G Davis, Tel: Rochdale 38993

COMMODORE PET 32K cassette player, many tapes, green screen, Basic 3 Disk-o-Pro-Chip, £200 on. Tel: 01-398 6963, ask for Simon

VIC20 plus cassette recorder, Super Expander 3K, 16K, introduction to Basic at I and II, five books, eight cartridges, Programmers Aid cartridge plus £700 worth of software, joystick and other accessories, £350 or will split. Tel: 01-578 2302

COMMODORE 64 SOFTWARE, Falcon Control, £3: Grave Robbers £3: Crazy Kong, £2: Adventure Pack, £3: Melbourne House Super Cassette A and B, £4 each. Jumpman on disks, £20. Tel: 6787 60168

VIC20 MACHINE CODE MONITOR, with manual, half price at £17, works perfectly. Contact Paul McDonnell Tel: Oxford 662864

VIC20 cassette recorder, 16K Ram, 2 joysticks + super expander, £150. Tel: Falk House (West Scotland) 70221

VIC20, 10 months' old, cassette recorder + 16K Ram pack, graphic pack, £80 software, manual — teaching book, £175. Tel: 061-794 8710

VIC20 C2N cassette introduction to Basic Part I, Asteroids, two months' old, hardly used, £100. Tel: Medway (0634) 719194

VIC20 Llamasoft Odetta and Imagine Arcadia to swap for any Spectrum tapes. Tel: James Frost 01-485 6213

VIC20, C2N cassette deck, super expander, lots of magazines and programs, including: Scramble, Panic, Night Crawler, Arcadia and lots more, £130. Tel: 0532 401796

VIC20 + cassette player — Point Master joystick and 3 cartridges, including: Gorf, over 70 games, £160 on, or swap 48K Spectrum + recorder and software. Tel: 0254 889237

COMMODORE 64, games: Star Trek, Othello, Connect 4, Painter, £5 each, N. Wareing, 13 Sunningdale Road, Denton, Manchester M34 1OP

SECOND-HAND VIC20, tapes + cartridges for sale. Tel: Dean 530883

VIC20 CARTRIDGES, including memory games + utilities, half price, also cassette + soft switch, half price. Tel: 01-574 4122

VIC20 — cassette + Super Expander cartridge, £150 of software, Reference Guide, joystick and magazines, £400, will accept £135 on. Huddersfield 0484 48964

VIC20, cassette deck with additional memory of 16K + 3K, also Reference Guide + Amber 2400 printer with interface, 4 rolls of paper + ribbons, 3 cassette games: Bonzo, Abductor, Crazy Kong, also 3 Rom games: Pirate Cove, Radar Ral Race, Jelly Monsters, will not separate items, £180 or will swap for 48K Spectrum with printer. Tel: Chris King, 01-580 4741 ext 82 or after 8 pm Ashford (Kent) 20228

VIC20 CARTRIDGES: "The Count", Cosmic Jailbreak, Gorf, Cassettes Matrix, Arcadia, Catcha Snatcha, Frantic Mint, £30 on, or swap ZX printer or 16K ZX81. Please write: Woolley, 43 Jackson Street, Gorton, Manchester

VIC20 CHOPFLUTTER CARTRIDGE, swap for Spiders Mars or Outworld, also swap Commodore 3K Ram for software, also cassettes to swap. Yateley 872310

VIC20, tape deck, joystick, cartridge, £75 of software, books, magazines, offers around £200. Tel: 01-397 0660

VIC20 + C2N cassette + 16K Ram pack + £200 of quality software, including: Education, Adventures, Arcadia, except £200 no offers! Tel: 01-958 3213

VIC20 and cassette unit plus £130 of software including Cosmic Cruncher, also program reference guide and Watson's Assembler, also joystick, all worth £300 offers near £190. Tel: 0603 47592

VIC20, 8K Ram, cassette deck intro to Basic, 1 joystick, cartridges includes Jelly Masters, Android Attack, all boxed as new, still under guarantee, £120. Tel: Mottram 44071 (Manchester)

VIC20 16K, cassette, motherboard, super expander, programmer's aid, joystick, light pen, technical manuals, live games cartridges, adventure games, £200 software, £250 on. Tel: Surbiton 01-390 5043

VIC20 plus C2N cassette unit, 16K Rampack, introduction to Basic, £75 software (Omega Race) and magazines, £165 on. Tel: 041 772 2055 (Glasgow)

VIC20 CASSETTE UNIT, switchboard 32K, Super Expander switchable motherboard, £60 software, two games cartridges and 100 magazines, Reference guide, cost £400, sell £220. Tel: Fleet (02514) 3692

VIC20 plus cassette unit, three cartridges, six cassettes and book, worth over £290, sell for £170 or swap for Spectrum 48K plus games and joystick interface. Tel: 681 0228

COMMODORE 64, software (cassette and disk) for sale. Tel: 577 2476 (P. Peter, anytime)

Dragons for sale

DRAGON J2 plus £68 software and two joysticks, manuals plus live games and programs, £170. Tel: Leeds 693736

DRAGON J2 plus £300 worth of software, two joysticks, cassette deck and books, £270 on. Tel: Mike Bristol (0272) 613309 after 7.30 pm

DRAGON J2, joystick, £260 + of software which includes Composer, Planet Invasion, Assembler and lots more. Magazines, books, two cartridges, H-res, Starship Chamelon, £240 on. Contact P Tracy, Warton 635353 after 6 pm

DRAGON J2 software for sale or swap. Planet Invasion, Space War, Chess, Frogger, £8 each or swap for Microdeal, J. M. Morrison, etc. No adventures or compendiums. Write to: Paul Fisher, 9 Nelson Close, Mickleover, Derby

DRAGON J2 plus cassette player, 11 joysticks, programming books, magazines and software, £110 on. 22 Upland, Horley, Surrey. Tel: 02834-2613

DRAGON J2, cassette, joysticks, software and books including two joysticks, Tasman Demon Assembler, Invaders, magazines, £350 worth of software including Microdeal and Morrisons best sellers plus other programs, swap BBC model or 300 or nearest offer. Tel: Grimsby 851391 or 851708

DRAGON J2, four months old, joysticks, cassette loader, £50 of software plus books, £220 on. Tel: 01-206 0919

DRAGON J2, perfect under guarantee, all leads and software (Microdeal, Salamander), 2 Microdeal joysticks, interface, books and light pen, worth £475, sell for £299. Tel: Madway (0634) 270317

DRAGON SOFTWARE, Original cassettes, leading titles, vastly reduced prices. Private sale. Sand Sea for sale to John Hall, 2 Mitchell Street, Burnley, Lancs B512 0HH or Tel: 0282 67057 evenings

DRAGON J2, under guarantee, boxed including all leads, £30 worth of software, two new joysticks and £10 worth of books and magazines, £150. Tel: Leeds (0532) 604981 after 5 pm

DRAGON J2, lots of software and utilities, worth £200, sell for £120. Tel: 01-556 6091, ask for Mrs Vervil

DRAGON J2, Five highly imaginative games on a quality cassette plus original documentation including Pucmann, Invader Synthesiser, Duel and Colony, costing £3.50 inc p&p. Cheques/PD to A J Wess, 19 Fernwood, Marple Bridge SK6 5BE

DRAGON GAMES for sale, 10 games all together at £50 or £5.50 each. Pair of joysticks for £15 (everything in very good condition), games include many top titles by Salamander. 061-797 6585

DRAGON J2, Good condition guaranteed all leads new joysticks reliable recorder, 4 Microdeal cassettes, Berserk cartridges, worth £270, offers over £180. Telephone Dundee 67411 after 6 pm

DRAGON J2, Still boxed 1 month old and new cassette recorder, 1 pair joysticks all leads and manual, 2 cassette games, cost £225, bargain only £180. Tel: Actonlogon 0254 391020

DRAGON J2, £40 of software, manuals, lead, book and cassette player, £130. Tel: 0582 607969 after 6 pm

DRAGON J2, £400 software, machine code cartridge, 1 joystick, 4 games, sell £90 on. Barton 781147, Don Campbell

DRAGON J2 + 3 cartridges, joysticks, cassette, s w and books, £180. Tel: Fleet (Hants) 02514 20152

DRAGON 32 + joysticks + dust cover + £160 top name software + 6 books, £180 or swap for 48K Spectrum Issue 2 + software Tel: East Grinstead 0542 27072

DRAGON 32, 3 months old, a pair joysticks, dust cover, approx £50, 2 cartridges, £170 ono. 021-326 9501.

DRAGON FOR SALE, £135, no offers, with extras. Tel: 061-945 1269

DRAGON 32, manual, joysticks, leads, plus £70 + like software including Ring of Darkness, Katerpillar, Planet Invasion plus £30+ of magazines, worth over £350, sell for £200 ono. Tel: 0792 401623

DRAGON 32, cassette recorder, over 25 tapes including Donkey King, Katerpillar Attack, Hi-Ras cartridge, 51 + 24 screen, 2 joysticks, light pen, book, magazines, only £220 for quick sell. Tel: 01-703 7965.

DRAGON 32, boxed, with all leads, manuals, etc. book, £30 worth software, all Dragon User magazines, worth £220, sell £140 Ring 0704 68894

DRAGON 32, under guarantee, boxed, including all leads, £30 worth of software, 2 new joysticks and £20 worth of books and mags, £150 Tel: Leeds 604981 after 5 pm.

DRAGON 32, complete with software tapes (Arcade, Adventures, Home Finance), three cartridges (no Chess), books, joystick, printer cable and Dragon User magazines, £210 ono. Phone 01-641 2285, Johnson.

DRAGON 32, very good condition, 3 joysticks, 3 books, over £220 worth s.w. cost £450, sell for £210 ono. Tel: (0279) 815623.

Ataris for sale

ATARI VCS - 11 cartridges including Pacman, Asteroids, Space Invaders, two joysticks and paddles, £120 or exchange Vic20 + hardware and software. Tel: 0702 710246 ext 48 (day-time)

ATARI VCS plus four cartridges, including Space Invaders with joystick and paddles, will sell for £75 ono (or will swap for Spectrum). Tel: 051 220 0049

ATARI VCS, 10 cartridges, excellent condition, worth £400 Sell for £130 Tel: 455 1042

ATARI 400 48K, moving keyboard, program recorder, joystick, all manuals, PSU etc. 50 machine code games include most famous titles and others! £270 ono. Tel: 01-599 6948

ATARI 800 48K with disc drive, 810, inc Atari Basic, Microsoft Basic, Assembler Editor, Monkey Wrench, two arcade and adventure games + manuals Sell for £570 Tel: 01-722 4570

65 ATARI VCS CARTRIDGES between £8 and £10 inc: Missile Command, Asteroids. Tel: Bicester 242 408 (5-6 pm).

ATARI VCS - two paddles + two joysticks - games cartridges, £50 01-568 7325

ATARI VCS plus Pacman and Defender with Combat, joysticks, all for £50. Tel: Southend 710266 after 4 pm on weekdays.

ATARI VCS and all the gear, plus nine cartridges and a dust cover, including Pacman, Space Invaders, Chopper Command and Asteroids, worth over £250, bargain at £95 Tel: Southend-on-Sea 232420.

ATARI VCS with Space Invaders and Combat cartridge, £50. Tel: 01-675 0797

ATARI VIDEO COMPUTER SYSTEM plus six cartridges, including Defender, Asteroids and Space Invaders. All boxed, £100 or nearest offer or will sell games separately. Tel: Penrith (Cumbria) 63518.

ATARI 400, Basic, Star Raiders, two joysticks and over £15 worth of books, only one month old. Sell for £160 ono, worth over £200. Tel: 01-656 3735 evenings only.

ATARI VCS, Good condition, five cartridges, £50 ono. Tel: 01-328 2075.

ATARI VCS, Paddles and joystick, nine cartridges, Asteroids, Space Invaders. £150. Tel: 01-452 4838

ATARI 800 48K tape recorder, disk drive, £300 of software, as new would cost £950, accept £650. Tel: 021-550 9824.

ATARI VCS, plus joysticks, paddles, combat cartridge and manuals, excellent condition, still guaranteed, £50 Atari VCS ldy, two cartridge holders and dustcover, £7 Empire Strikes Back cartridge, £17, Phoenix cartridge, £17. The lot for £85 ono. Tel: Woking (04662) 70318.

ATARI 400 48K, 141 program recode, £150 of games, back-up cassette, still in boxes, with one Atari and quickshot joystick. Offers or swap for BBC. Tel: 01-550 0106 after 4 pm or swap for BBC.

ATARI VIDEO COMPUTER SYSTEM with three cartridges, Combat, Street Racer and Space Invaders. All boxed with full instructions. Very good condition. £75 ono Tel: 0254 381335

Wanted

WANTED PRINTER for BBC Phone Maldon 869398

SWAP, Atari 400 plus 18K, Basic, recorder, manual and software for Spectrum 48K plus bits or sell for £130 As new. Ideal for Christmas Tel: Marlin after 7 pm, Burgh Heath 57278

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE SWAP, 3D Tanx, Arcadia Hobbit, Flight Simulation, Gulpman, Jetpac, Penetration, Centipede and many more. Tel: 01-789 5728

WANTED, Faulty or damaged ZX Spectrum 48K or 16K Tel: Abingdon 634613 after 5.30 pm

WANTED, 16K Spectrum. Must be Model 1 plus PSU leads etc. No software needed. Tel: Rugby (0788) 60405, Mr. Shelley

SWAP Dragon 32 for BBC Model B including £200 of software. Most popular titles, still under guarantee. Mint condition. Leads, joystick, manuals included. Tel: 01-370 5696

WANTED, ZX Spectrum 48K software, printer if available. Tel: Chesham (0494) 772544

SWAP OR SELL, One 148K cassette recorder joystick interface, quickshot joystick, £50 software, printer voucher, worth £300. Very good condition, swap for Atari 600XL or sell for £200 ono. Tel: Milton Mowbray 60281

SWAP ADVENTURELAND cartridge for any other in Soot Adams CB. Tel: (0698) 421 327, Hamilton

SWAP SPECTRUM for Dragon software. Mostly interested in adventures, would like Mysterious Adventure series, but anything considered. Tel: 0392 833240

AN ATARI 810 disk drive plus disk software. Tel: Dudley 53149 evenings

WANTED BADLY, 16K 48K Spectrum with manuals, will pay £70 to £90 plus postage costs. Also wanted quality software. Send offers to Jan Erik Borge, Box 42, 3135 Torød, Norway

SWAP Dragon 32 plus joysticks and software including: Frogger, Shuttle, The King and more also Dragon User magazines. Four months old, boxed, for 48K Spectrum with software (under guarantee)

WANTED, Diagrams and technical information on T199 4A add-ons. Also secondhand RS232 modules, cartridges, etc. Write T. R. Freeman, 155 Albert Street, Fleet, Hants GU13 9RP

For sale

SHARP MZ 80K built-in screen and tape recorder, £350 of software and manuals, user guide and program books and dust cover, for £295 ono. Tel: 01-455 6641, Golders Green, after 4.30 pm

LYNX 48K, as new, Still under guarantee. Boxed with manuals, leads, demonstration tape and users magazine, £150. Tel: Wickford, Essex. 68701

PHILIPS G7000 VIDEOGAME, 18 cartridges, dustcover. Good condition, value £360, sell £170 or NU cartridges separate, £8.50 each. Quest for the Rings. £18. Tel: Accrington 0254 396847

LYNX SOFTWARE GAMES PACK III, plus IV, Adventure Quest etc. book plus two newsletters. Any reasonable offer over £10 accepted. Tel: Egham 33502 (Surrey). Private sale. Good condition

FOR SALE OR SWAP, Spectrum software. Most well known titles, including Arcadia, Flight Simulator, etc. Tel: Lairg (Scotland) 0549 2113

SELL VIDEOGAME 18K, £250 worth of software, books and manuals, £200 ono. Contact: 49 Homelife Road, Puddichurch, Bristol BS17 3QA. Tel: 027582-2145

MICRO-PROFESSOR ONLY, £90. Brand new, only two months old. Tel: 01-351 2269 after 6 pm.

LYNX 48K, six months old, complete with compatible tape recorder, nine games tapes, associated books, newsletters and listings. Bargain at £175. Write to: 31 Inwell Place, Platt Bridge, Near Wigan WN2 5EF

ARCADIA, 3D Tanx, £3; Time-gate Battlezone, £4; Hobbit, £9; Flight Simulation, £6; VU-3D, £7; magazines and books, 25p p.p. Write to: D Appleton 9 Coronation Road High Bridge Somerset. (Private sale)

ZX PRINTER, Original roll unfinished plus five rolls of paper. Improved spool and software to enable sideways print. £25. Tel: Bath 887155 during office hours

WIRELESS WORLD MICRO P81 COMP 80 Z80 + number cruncher based, built by professional engineer from Robot + power train kit, full paper work + news letters. Offers? Tel: 01-289 7219 (evenings)

INTELLIVISION, Boxed as new. Unwanted gift. Three free games. Hardly used. Bargain at £75 ono. Tel: Oswestry (0691) 656488

CROMECOM high resolution colour graphics system. Complete 760 X 340 Pixel system with graphics, software. New cost over £3,500. Offers around £2,000. Tel: Aberdeen (0224) 572933

TRS-80 MODEL I, level 2 Basic 48K, expansion interface, one disc drive, cassette, lots of software including Script Edasm, Z80chip II, Nendos 80 etc £400 ono. Tel: (07818) 6254

DATA CASSETTE RECORDER CCR900 for Spectrum. One etc. Very reliable. £18. Forth Manual, Winfield complete. Forth book, Hampson tape version 2. £9. Tel: 0203 383212 or 0992 830248

LYNX 48K MACHINE, four months old, hardly used, mini computer manuals, introductory cassette, boxed as new, cost £225, sell for £190 ono. Tel: 01-626 1500 (office hours), extension 2017

TIM4A, as new, £75. Chess and personal records cartridges £20 each. T1-55.11 LCD programmable calculator, £20. Chess Challenger 7 chess computer, £35. 20 Callion Close, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9QT

INTELLIVISION GAME plus six games, £130. Tel: 01-676 0095

OHIO SUPERBOARD, faulty, hence £40 or offers. 8086 development system with intel monitor prompts etc, offers Hugh Bridge, 363 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, London SE11 5QY. Tel: 01-735 1862

TEXAS INSTRUMENT P100 home computer games module. Barsc, Chess, Munchman, £20 ono. Hardly used. Tel: 01-558 0767 (evenings)

GEMINI GALAXY 2 BOOK DISK, As new, £200. Tel: (0753) 862399

SHARP M200K plus printer, £600. Tel: (0753) 882399

ASTRO CLASH for the unexpanded Vic20, good sound effects and graphics, for only £120 a copy inclusive of p.p. Send to 32 Grange Road, Strood, Kent

SHARP M200, built-in screen, cassette recorder, Basic tapes, manual, Forth tapes and programming books plus £250 software for sale, £350. Tel: 01-455 6641 after 4 pm

COLEVISION ZAXXON CARTRIDGE, Offers to Alkali. Bedford 212 648 after 5 pm.

ORIC-1 48K complete with manual, P.S.U., all leads, Forth cassette and manual, assembler disassembler and documentation plus a couple of games, £130. Tel: Essex (0245) 50432

CBM 64 SOFTWARE, S.H. private sale. At least 50 per cent off list. Tel: Ged on Warrington 31288 ext 231 between 12 pm and 12.30 any Monday

VIC20 plus cassette, Programmers Aid cartridge, machine code cartridge, 16K plus 3K Ram cartridges, joystick, books and many magazines, £150 ono. Tel: 0634 813198

FULLER SPEECH SYNTHESIZER, Excellent condition, £30. Selling because buying a microdrive. Tel: Wolverhampton 37177 after 4.30 pm.

ORIC 6K Rampack, mint condition, boxed. Swap for software or sell £15. Tel: 041-778 5184 evenings/weekend

NEWBRAIN COMPUTER, AD model, built-in display, manual, printer, leads, games, cassette and beginners guide. Virtually unused, £160 ono. Tel: 021-202 2617

8271 DISC controller chip wanted for BBC, £15 paid. Tel: Peter on Upminster 24385

PHILIPS G7000 COMPUTER, as new, with six games including computer pack, £65 ono. Tel: Tottenham 801-5580

SWAP PORTASS 3 1/2 centre lathe, C/W motor, single phase, 3-jaw, 4-jaw chucks for Dragon data disc drive. Gray, 178 Grange Road, Leitchworth, Herts

ELEVENTHALLS program 8809, will buy or swap for Dragon software. Tel: Richmond 611611

SWAP VIC Super Expander cartridge for two game cartridges must be (Moneybags, Cosmic, Jailbreak, Man-angarie). Tel: Stevenage (0438) 811634 after 7 pm.

SPECTRUM 16K/48K, Tel: Langford (0458) 020130

EXCHANGE OF BUY ZX81 software. Send list, 65 Grassdale View, Sheffield S12 4LZ

BBC SOFTWARE, 50 programs, a range to choose from. Ring for details. Tel: 574 2576

BBC SOFTWARE, Acorn Soft originals and many others, £6 tapes all £4 each, must sell. Tel: 051-420 3462

BBC MODEL A (32K) plus printer port plus joysticks, £350 ono. Epson MX80 FT III hi-res printer, £350 ono (less 10 per cent for both). Tel: Halifax 41048

BBC MODEL B, Still boxed, large amount of software plus joysticks and magazines etc. £700 ono. Tel: 01-575 0640 after 6 pm.

BBC MODEL B 1.2 O.S., guaranteed, Bought September 1983, software available, £360. Tel: (0753) 73099

TNT

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Reading RG1 4SQ. Tel: Reading (0734) 591678

NEW RELEASES

ELABORATE

GATEWAY TO THE SKIES



Gateway To The Skies is an elaborate text adventure for the BBC with 32K. It is so vast it will not fit into the machine and so has to be loaded in two parts.

The program has single key entry of all movement commands, but adopts the standard Verb/Noun format for all other instructions.

The basic point of the adventure is to search for hidden golden artefacts and take them to the palace of King Zalen. You can save the game at any stage and you'll probably need to — it sounds like a long one. A Spectrum version is also available.

Program Gateway To The Skies
Price £8.00 (Spectrum £6.95)
Micro BBC (32K) Spectrum 48K
Supplier Solar Soft
5 Westmorland Drive
Camberley
Surrey GU15 1EW

CORRUPT

Richard Shepherd Software has been one of the most successful games houses specialising in adventures for the Spectrum.

The company has now released its first program for the Commodore 64. The game *Ship of the Line* is an adaptation of the program of the same name on the Spectrum.

You assume the role of an unashamedly corrupt, sea captain in charge of a Royal Navy warship, in the 17th century. You must fight ferocious sea battles to win treasure with

which to bribe your way to the top.

Succeeding in the game is a matter of careful planning and luck, will you have enough rations to feed your mutinous crew? Will your ammunition run out?

Program Ship of the Line
Price £6.50
Micro Commodore 64
Supplier Richard Shepherd Software
Elm House
21-25 Elmshott Lane
Cippenham
Slough
Berks

MAGIC

Compilers are wonderful things. The biggest problem with Basic is that it is simply too slow to produce the kind of exciting games that you want to play repeatedly.

Machine code on the other hand is fiendishly difficult (well I think so anyway) A compiler though, magically turns a Basic program into machine code while you sit back and watch.

The first compiler I've seen for the BBC B has just been issued by Park Software. It all sounds a bit too good to be true, well, as with all compilers, there are limitations.

The maximum program length is 8K and only 300 program lines are allowed. Similarly, you are limited to 26 variables and 30 procedures. Nevertheless, with care, most things are possible and you could find the compiler very useful.

Program Compiler
Price £14.95
Micro BBC B (1.2 OS, A with 32K)
Supplier Park Software
26 Ryemith Park Road
Barn
South Glamorgan
CF6 8RO

3D SCRAMBLE

Zaxxon is the first version I've seen on the Spectrum of the impressive Zaxxon arcade game.

Although plot-wise the format is similar to Scramble — break through the enemies defences to reach and destroy some ultimate objective — the

game achieved its reputation because of the 3D presentation of the attack.

Your aircraft, complete with shadow, is seen from above and to the side. The enemy defences are seen from a similar perspective. The way the screen scrolls diagonally, adds to the sense of pace and drama in the game.

Program Zaxxon
Price £5.50
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Starzone Software
74 Wallingford Road
Shillingford
Oxford OX9 8HH

FUZZY



Let me be honest I have always thought that Dragon software was appalling — everything I saw was overpriced and dull, and incidentally, usually written in Basic.

However, things are looking up. After the excellent *Ligh* by Softek, we have *Pub Crawl* by B&H Software and it's another superb Dragon game.

The screen displays a layout of various pubs and a hamburger joint. You leave home trying to visit as many pubs as you can, downing a swift pint in each. Naturally after a while things start to get a little fuzzy and with all that traffic about you'd best grab a burger to line your stomach.

Later stages of the game bring on police cars that dash about like something from the Sweeney — can you drink all the pints and make it back home?

The game is entirely in machine code and it shows;

the action is very fast and the sound effects are amusing.

Program Pub Crawl
Price £6.95
Micro Dragon 32
Supplier B&H Software
208 King Street
Cottingham
Hull

MS RIGHT?

Lonely? Spent too much time sitting alone in front of your tv? Looking for Miss Right (or Mr Right) — now there's no need to switch off the tv and rush madly into dozens of meaningless relationships, use your computer to plan ahead.

Matchmaker is the program you need, roughly equivalent to the systems used by professional companies, it will store 100 people's replies to a series of 25 questions and, according to their answers, match them.

Using the computer's rating system you will be able to find the person who most likes what you like, etc. But what will you have to talk about?

Program Matchmaker
Price £9.99
Micro Commodore 64
Supplier Commodore
675 Ajax Avenue
Slough Trading Estate
Slough
Berks SL1 4BG

SKILLS

Games Graphics and Sounds is a book intended to be both a general guide to what kinds of game are available and specific information on how some of the effects are programmed.

Along with the types of game, the skills required for each are discussed and there are various colour illustrations.

Also included is a guide to what to buy for games playing and a number of programs to type in. Given the colour illustrations it looks reasonable value at £4.95.

Book Games Graphics and Sounds
Price £4.95
Micro General
Supplier Francis Lincoln
Apollo Works
5 Chalfont King's Road
London NW5 2SH

DA



Terminal Software whose Pinball achieved wonders in 3K the Vic has entered the competitive world of Spectrum programs.

Both of its new releases are graphics adventures - Vampire Village and Space Island. Space Island gives you an android to control - the only equipment you have been able to get down to the planet Zyro from your spaceship orbiting the planet. You must use your android to locate the origin of a dangerous time distortion on the planet.

Movement and instructions to the android are all by single key presses although there are many more options than usual. The only graphics I managed to see of the game before my android drowned was the map of the planet and this was well done. The packaging, too, is very robust and appealing. Recommended.

Program Space Island
Price £6.95
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Terminal Software
28 Church Lane
Prestwich
Manchester M2 7LW

LADDERS

More praise for Dragon software. This time for Castle Attack, a multi-screen arcade game with many features.

The first section is a bit like Apple Panic although very well done - you must run up a number of ladders on the walls of a castle to reach three keys, but you must get them in the right order.

The problem is, various bar-

rels and arrows are hurtling across the screen - you can avoid them but your time is limited. That, though, is only part one.

In the second section you play a variant of Mastermind with the life of a beautiful princess as the stake. The knife suspended above her draws nearer as you fumble in the logic of a four shape code. As ever, everything gets more and more difficult as you go along. Fine stuff.

Program Castle Attack
Price £6.50
Micro Dragon 32
Supplier M & D Systems
39 Sheridan Road
Frimley
Surrey GU16 5DU

SUPERB



Phoenix Software whose double package Death Mines of Sirius I thought very good value for money have now released their first Vic game in the double cassette arcade-adventure series.

I can say that the action part of this package called Four Gates To Freedom is superb. It's a sophisticated version of Breakout where you fire at the walls with lasers. I've seen nothing faster, noisier or more addictive outside of some of the Llamasoft games.

Mastering the action game (a seemingly impossible task) will give you the start up code to the adventure.

The task then is to release the crew of a star cruiser who are held in suspended animation somewhere in the mysterious catacombs of Xzinos. It has all the standard adventure

features and the package is highly recommended.

Program Four Gates To Freedom
Price £9.95
Micro Vic20 (+8K)
Supplier Phoenix Software
Spangles House
116 Marsh Road
Pinner
Middlesex

OPPRESSED

Red Shift has made the world of war-game orientated computer programs its own.

The latest addition to the range is Nebula for the 48K Spectrum. It has the classic scenario of expansionist emperors forcing oppressed peoples to battle it out for territory and glory.

I must admit that in the past I have expressed doubt with the manuals that accompany these sort of epic games - mainly because I can't understand them. On this occasion though, I was happily report that the manual is (a) quite short and (b) fairly easy to understand, so it may be that Nebula could be an introduction to the subject.

Program Nebula
Price £9.95
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Red Shift
12c Manor Road
London N16 5SA

MYSTERY

The one place where the Spectrum (16K) has no advantage over the ZX81 16K is in running text adventures. In fact, the ZX81 has more available memory.

So it's good to see that adventures are still being issued for the machine - the most recent is Don't Look Now.

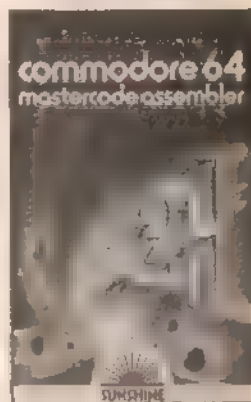
You explore a series of caves meeting peculiar strangers who will probably want to kill you and finding objects whose function is quite likely to remain a mystery.

There is no ultimate end to the game and you must simply use your ingenuity to get as far as you can.

Program Don't Look Now
Price £4.95
Micro ZX81 (16K)
Supplier MDD Whitehouse
7 Dornie Close

Stewarton
Kilmarnock
Ayrshire KA3 3HE

WELCOME



The Commodore 64 is a very powerful machine, but important utilities like machine code programming tools are still relatively scarce.

At the moment there isn't much choice for the 64 owner wanting to venture into assembly language; assembler and disassembler programs are few and far between.

For this reason the Commodore 64 Mastercode Assembler should be welcome news, combining as it does a machine code monitor, disassembler, file editor and assembler in one package.

There's no point in trying to list all the features in a short piece like this, but I can say that the manual is clearly written and the program is very user friendly. I'd better add that it's by Sunshine (which is us) and was written by book authors David Lawrence and Mark England.

Program Commodore 64
Mastercode
Assembler
Price £14.95
Micro Commodore 64
Supplier Sunshine Books
12-13 Little Newport St
London WC2R 3LD

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on to the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to: New Releases, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD

This Week

Program	Type	Micro	Price	Supplier
A 10 Bomber	Arc	Colour Genie	£5.00	Ipswich
Amazing Office	Ed	BBC B	£5.95	Storm
Armageddon	Arc	Commodore 64	£9.95	Visions
Assembler/Disassembler	U	Commodore 64	£9.50	Micro Video
Banana Drama	Arc	Commodore 64	£9.95	Visions
Bandits	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Battle Brick	Arc	Lynx	£4.50	Bus Tech
Big Time	Ad	Spectrum	£4.50	Mushroomsoft
Cassette 19	Ed	BBC B	£11.95	Schoolsoft
Centimunch	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	TNT
Chess	S	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Croaker	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Dare Devil Dennis	Arc	BBC	£7.95	Visions
Deathchase	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	Micromega
Dodge City	Arc/Ad	Spectrum	£9.95	Phoenix
Double Trouble	Arc	Spectrum	£5.00	Starite
Drone War	Arc	Spectrum	£4.95	Enigma
Eaglesong	Ad	Dragon 32	£4.95	Exodus
Felix and the Fruit Monsters	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Felix in the Factory	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Fireflash	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Abacus
Fool's Gold	Ad	Commodore	£6.99	Romik
Galactic Warriors	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	Abacus
Geniepoes	Arc	Colour Genie	£8.00	Ipswich
Golden Apple of Zaus	Ad	Vic20	£6.99	Romik
Goodness Gracious	Arc	Commodore	£5.95	Beyond
Graphics Package	U	Spectrum	£4.50	Dream
Gusher	Arc	Commodore 64	£9.95	Visions
Huist	Arc	BBC B	£5.95	Softspot
Helpline	Ed	Lynx	£4.50	Bus Tech
Hobbit	Arc	BBC B	£14.95	Melbourne
Hepper	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	PSS
I Do	U	BBC/Electr	£12.65	Acornsoft
Inaders	Arc	Lynx	£7.00	Bus Tech
Invoicing	U	Dragon 32	£24.95	Micro Bus
Jumping John	Arc	Lynx	£7.00	Bus Tech
Krazy Kong	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	PSS
Light Pan Editor	U	Commodore 64	£10.50	Micro Video
Lynx Muncher	Arc	Lynx	£4.50	Bus Tech
Marlin Rescue	Arc	Colour Genie	£8.00	Ipswich
Minefield	Arc	Lynx	£4.50	Bus Tech
Moonrider	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Probus	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	Abacus
Rapedos	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Visions
Roboron	Arc	Lynx	£8.00	Storm
Skatchpad	III	BBC B	£6.95	Storm
Snooker	S	BBC	£6.95	Visions
Snooker	S	Commodore 64	£6.95	Visions
Snooker	S	Vic20	£6.95	Visions
Star Warrior	Arc	Spectrum	£8.95	Visions
Starclash	Arc	Spectrum	£8.95	Micromega
Stock Control	U	Dragon 32	£49.95	Micro Bus
Surround	Arc	Lynx	£4.50	Bus Tech
Swoop	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Sword Of Hakai	Ad	Vic20	£6.99	Romik
Tank Battle	Arc	Jupiter	£4.95	Plasma
The Dating Game	U	BBC/Electr	£12.65	Acornsoft
The Shaky Game	Arc	Spectrum	£6.00	Epic
Tombs of Xelaps	Ad	Commodore III	£6.99	Romik

Book Ends

POOR ORIC

A nice, undemanding idea, to fill a small gap in a computer owner's stocking, this Christmas is *Computing: A Bug's Eye View* by Shiva.

It's a neat little book containing nothing but cartoons on a computing theme, all featuring the bizarre bugs and insects created by Cosgrove.

Most of the jokes are of the groan, groan kind — Hamlet bug looking over an Oric with a sword through it says (you can see it coming, can't you) "Alas, poor Oric". Probably not good for much more than a couple of hours read, but at £2.95 perhaps that doesn't really matter.

Book	<i>Computing: A Bug's Eye View</i>
Price	£2.95
Micro	General
Supplier	Shiva Publishing 4 Church Lane Nantwich Cheshire CW5 5RQ

VIOLENCE

Games of death, destruction and other wanton violence abound in *Tim Hartnell's Giant Book of Spectrum Games*.

Programs with names like *Suicide* and *Nuclear Fallout* suggest this might not be the book to ask your aged granny to buy for you as a Christmas present.

Having said that though, I should add that most of the games look like they might actually be worth your while typing them in.

The book is published by Fontana which means it should be very widely available and at £3.95 it looks good value.

Book	<i>Tim Hartnell's Giant Book of Spectrum Games</i>
Price	£3.95
Micro	Spectrum 16/48K
Supplier	Fontana Paperbacks 8 Grafton Street London W1X 3LA

Transistor's Revenge	Arc	BBC B	£6.95	Softspot
Transylvanian Tower	Ad	Dragon 32	£6.95	Richard Shepherd
Up Pariscage	Arc	Dragon	£6.95	Beyond
White Crystal	Arc	Dragon 32	£6.99	Romik
Word Feud	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	AudioLogic
Wordsearch	Arc	Lynx	£6.00	Bus Tech
Zombie Panic	Arc	Lynx	£4.50	Bus Tech
Zargon's Kingdom	Arc	Vic20	£6.99	Romik

Key: Ad — adventure/Arc — arcade/Ed — education/
S — strategy-simulation/U — utility

This Week is a new section that covers all the new software coming on to the home micro market each week. All suppliers should send details of their new programs to: This Week, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

Top 10

BBC*	
1 (1) Planetoids	(Acornsoft)
2 (3) Rocket Raid	(Acornsoft)
3 (2) Hopper	(Acornsoft)
4 (4) Swoop	(Program Power)
5 (7) Meteors	(Acornsoft)
6 (5) Monsters	(Acornsoft)
7 (6) Alien Swirl	(Program Power)
8 (—) Missile Base	(Acornsoft)
9 (10) Countdown to Doom	(Program Power)
10 (—) Phasability Experiment	(Digital Fantasia)

*All Model B.
(Figures compiled by Micro Management, Ipswich 0473 59181)

Top 10

ZX81*	
1 (1) OS Scramble	(Quicksoft)
2 (4) 1K Chess	(Artic)
3 (—) Fantasy Games	(Pison)
4 (5) Sabotage	(Pison)
5 (—) Espionage	(Pison)
6 (6) Chess	(Pison)
7 (7) Asteroids	(Quicksoft)
8 (—) Space Raiders	(Pison)
9 (2) Defender	(Quicksoft)
10 (8) Football Manager	(Addictive Games)

*All run in 10K except where shown, 11K.
(Figures compiled by Boots & Co, London)

Top 10

Dragon	
1 (1) Frogger	(Microdeal)
2 (3) Mined Out	(Quicksoft)
3 (—) Cuthbert in the Jungle	(Microdeal)
4 (6) The King	(Microdeal)
5 (—) Ring of Darkness	(Wintersoft)
6 (6) Champions	(Peaksoft)
7 (—) Pettigrew's Diary	(Sharda)
8 (4) Drone	(Cable)
9 (—) Dragonfly II	(Hewson)
10 (7) Empire	(Sharda)

(Figures compiled by Boots & Co, London)

Top 10

Vic20	
1 (—) Wizard and the Princess	(Melbourne House)
2 (3) Wacky Walkers	(Imagine)
3 (4) Planit	(Quicksoft)
4 (5) Catcha Snatcha	(Imagine)
5 (7) Meltris	(Llamasoft)
6 (1) Arcade	(Imagine)
7 (—) Amok	(AudioLogic)
8 (—) Bewitched	(Imagine)
9 (2) Skyhawk	(Quicksoft)
10 (6) Frantic	(Imagine)

(Figures compiled by Boots & Co, London)

Atari

1 (1) Zaxxon	(DataSoft)
2 (2) Miner 2049'er	(Big Five)
3 (—) Preppie	(Adventure International)
4 (—) Zork II	(Infocom)
5 (6) Meteors	(Acornsoft)
6 (—) Witness	(Infocom)
7 (—) Jumpin Junior	(Apri)
8 (—) Planet Fall	(Infocom)
9 (—) Savage Pond	(Starcade)
10 (—) The Bleed of Blackpool	(Simut)

*Cartridge, 128K cassette, 148K disc.
(Figures compiled by Celsio Computers, Birmingham 021-632 6458)

Books

1 (1) Advanced User Guide for the BBC Micro, Bray, Dickens and Holmes	(Cambridge Micro Centre)
2 (6) Commodore 64 Programmer's Reference Guide, Commodore	(Commodore)
3 (2) 30 Hour Basic, Prigmore	(NEC)
4 (3) Supercharge Your Spectrum, Webb	(Melbourne House)
5 (7) One Hundred Programs for the BBC Micro, Gordon	(Prenice-Hall)
6 (—) Spectrum Hardware Manual, Decline	(Melbourne House)
7 (10) Assembly Language Programming for the BBC Micro, Simbaum	(Macmillan)
8 (—) BBC Micro — an expert guide, James	(Granada)
9 (—) Using the 64, Gernard	(Duckworth)
10 (8) Anatomy of the Dragon, James	(Sigma)

(Figures compiled by Watford Technical Books, Watford 0922 23324 Prestel 28824)
(Last week's position in brackets)

Spectrum

1 (2) 30 Ant Attack	(Quicksoft)
2 (—) Hammer Attack	(Dunrell)
3 (3) Lunar Jetman	(Ultimate)
4 (—) Jet Pac	(Ultimate)
5 (—) Bugaboo	(Quicksoft)
6 (1) Fight Simulation	(Imagine)
7 (—) Maziacs	(DK Tronics)
8 (4) Zoom	(Imagine)
9 (7) Kong	(Ocean)
10 (—) Manic Miner	(Buy Byte)

(Figures compiled by W H Smith and Sons, London)

Ziggurat



Advertising Standards

When we just cannot get our arcade scores any higher, or figure out how to get past that fierce lavatory seat with one hand tied behind our back, the cares of the world on our shoulders, and that Peaky Pie-Person giving us clues all the time, computer-exhaustion finally takes hold.

We desperately want to relax, so we pull out the computer lead, push the aerial back in and think of a number between one and four. This helps to sooth our tattered nerves, until the commercial "break" arrives and a large grey elephant or a superannuated Scouse cynic appears to insult our intelligence. In desperation we grab the *Radio* and *TV Times* to look for an alternative, but once again those corny adverts leer out at us from the pages. We turn off in disgust and pick up a newspaper, but there's no getting away from it as everyone from the biggest hypermarket to the local greengrocer seems to be claiming that "you can't buy it cheaper elsewhere".

We are not sure of other people's reactions, but the current state of computer promotion certainly has us oscillating between hysterical laughter and sheer horror. We know that, to the entrepreneur, computers are "for selling, not for buying" and that all advertisers are given to hyperbole, but surely there must be a limit somewhere! If you regularly read PCW (and even Ziggurat!) you probably already have a micro of some sort (or at least have tinkered with your friend's) so you presumably have

some idea about what the important features are in a home micro.

On the other hand, it seems that computer promotion has sunk to the depths of the car industry, where the whole point seems to be extoll the importance of trivialities and to avoid the really important issues at all costs. So, who are they fooling?

Regrettably, the answer is usually the first time buyer who thinks Ram is a male goat and that Rom wasn't built in a day.

As Christmas approaches, and the stampede intensifies, all reason seems to vanish as Mum and Dad know that little Johnny (or Jenny) will be inconsolable if Santa doesn't deliver the goods. So, how do they choose and where do they go?

The answer usually lies in the relative importance of the bank-balance, "keeping up with the Joneses", and what name has been subliminally impressed on their mind.

Although every Tom, Dick and Harry now sells computers and every store seems to contain a "computer shop", it is regrettably true, that the demand for qualified salespersons far outstrips the supply (one of the funniest sights this week was the pathetic "computer sales manager" of a local department store trying to pretend to a "real" dealer that he was a potential purchaser so that he could glean some information on the products to pass on).

Of course, Darwin might argue that natural selection will ensure the survival of the fittest; but the harsh world of reality seems to select more on the basis of brute force than technical excellence. What seems to count most in this market place is how much you can afford to spend on promotion, rather than how good your product is (or even more important, how good the back-up will be).

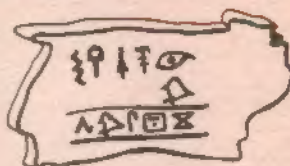
The last few months have seen the death-throes of a number of companies, yet more have retired in haste to lick their wounds, and the writing is on the wall for several more. After Christmas we are certain that there will be a lot of walling and gnashing of teeth as many of the big stores wrap up their chips, get out the holiday brochures, and relegate computers to the store cupboard, leaving too many customers to find out for themselves that they have bought a pig in a poke.

Keith and Steven Brain

Puzzle

Egyptian code

Puzzle No 83



This interesting fragment of an ancient Egyptian clay tablet was recently unearthed by that eminent archaeological duo — Drs Diggett and Trowell. It is thought that it represents a multiplication sum but, unless it is shown that it is possible to satisfactorily substitute digits for the symbols shown, this theory cannot be proved. There is evidence that the sum is in decimal notation and the bird symbol was used to represent the digit '3'.

Can you make the archaeological breakthrough and confirm the theory?

Solution to Puzzle No 78

The program uses three variables, *N*, the number of the highest double in successively larger domino series, *P*, the number of pieces in the set and, *T*, the total number of spots.

Subsequent orders of sets, are calculated in the *ForNext* loop (Lines 40 to 70), and the program stops when the total number of spots exceeds 1983, the present date.

```
10 LET N = 0: LET P = 0: LET T = 0: FOR A = N TO 0 STEP -1: 50 LET T = T + A + N: 60 LET P = P + 1: 70 NEXT A: 80 PRINT N: IF T > 1983 THEN STOP: 100 LET N = N + 1: 110 GOTO 40
```

The program gives the solution of a set with 120 pieces — up to a double-fourteen, giving a total of 1680 spots, the year required by the puzzle. The previous set, up to a double-thirteen, can be ruled out because of the number of spots. This gives the year as 1395 and it seems too close to the date of the set itself, manufactured by "distant" ancestors in the 14th century.

Winner of Puzzle No 78

The winner is: E Oakley, South Road, Northfield, Birmingham, who receives £10.

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